

## 2015 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills

Our 2015 Pinot Noir, Sta. Rita Hills is an appellation bottling and one that truly shows off the character of this small but mighty grape growing region. From three superbly farmed vineyards, Babcock, Bentrock and Radian, this wine exhibits the tell-tale Sta. Rita spice quality that runs through the area. 2015 was the most impacted vintage yet of our recent drought years and was a bit tricky to work with at the winery. We used less stems during fermentation due to higher salinity in the stems and greater amounts of tannin in the skins. We also let the wine age longer in barrel (17 months rather than 12) to allow those tannins time to soften a bit and to help the wine round out.

Tasting Note: Shimmering light ruby in color. The nose has bright, fresh raspberry fruit and a potpourri of floral and spice aromatics. Also present is that tell-tale Sta. Rita Hills spice quality and a touch of earthiness from the modest use of stems during fermentation. On the palate the wine strikes with a balance between fresh, crisp acidity and rich round fruit weight in the middle. The wine finishes more on the savory side with light chalky tannins extending its already lengthy impression.

Only 200 cases produced 20% Whole cluster fermentation 14.0% alcohol pH 3.62 TA 0.59g/100ml Retail Price: \$40.00