



## **TECHNICAL NOTES**

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir Vineyard source: La Encantada Production: 35 cases Alcohol by volume: 14.1% pH: 3.42 Titratable acidity: 0.61 g/100ml. Cellaring potential: Six to nine years Bottle price: \$50.00

# 2018 PINOT NOIR

Sta. Rita Hills - La Encantada Vineyard

#### The Vineyard

Located directly south of our estate vineyard, Fe Ciega, this esteemed vineyard was planted by pioneer vintner and longtime friend Richard Sanford. I source my fruit from a block planted to the Dijon 777 clone. To reduce our portfolio of single-vineyard Pinot Noirs we produce, this 2018 bottling is the last wine I will make from this beloved vineyard.

### The Harvest

The weather during the 2018 and 2017 growing season and harvest were very similar. This cooler weather allowed the grapes to hang on the vine longer and develop mature flavors, yet retain excellent acidity. The grapes were harvested on September 13th with a sugar content of 23.8 Brix.

#### Winemaking

The grapes were 100% destemmed and crushed into a small, open top fermenter. The must was cold soaked for three days, then inoculated with yeast. After a 9-day fermentation, the wine was pressed off, settled in a tank and transferred to all neutral French oak barrels to begin aging. 14 months later, the wine was lightly filtered and bottled in February 2020.

# The Wine

The wine has a vivid, medium dark, ruby color. The aromas are a beguiling mix of candied cranberries, oriental spices, cedar and oak forest. On the palate the wine is medium-bodied with tart and sweet juicy red fruits balanced with light and silky tannins. The finish is exquisitely long and vibrant. After extended bottle aging, this beautifully balanced wine will intrigue Pinot Noir lovers with its nuance and complexity.

# **Food Pairings**

Enjoy this wine with a variety of foods including wild game such as rabbit, quail or duck served with a berry and red wine sauce.

bit longues

Rick Longoria, Winemaker March 1, 2020