



BARDEN



Sta. Rita Hills

2020 Pinot Noir

BARDEN focuses exclusively on the terroir of the Sta. Rita Hills sourcing fruit from top vineyards in the appellation, showcasing the region's classic typicity for Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah. With its diverse, marine-based soils and refrigerated-sunlight climate, the Sta. Rita Hills provides a perfect place for Doug "Barden" Margerum to leverage his forty years of food and wine experience to make limited amounts of world-class, cuisine-friendly and age-worthy wines. The BARDEN name's English meaning is "Lives near the boar's den..." Thus, the image of a wild boar, which is pervasive in our area's vineyards.

Vineyard Region: Sta. Rita Hills – La Encantada Vineyard (64%), Sanford & Benedict Vineyard (26%), Radian (7%), Peake Ranch (1%).

Vintage Conditions: Santa Barbara County had a cool spring and mild summer temperatures that extended the growing season. Harvest began in the last half of August and the weather that followed had the usual summer heat waves. It was a very quick and even harvest with yields that were average to below average helping to produce pronounced flavors and aromatics. Most importantly for us is that we did not have the fires that plagued the vineyards to the north. We are very happy with the quality of the wine and the "numbers" (pH, TA, Alc.) have been right on resulting in very balanced wines.

Winemaking: The fruit was all hand sorted, with a percentage of whole cluster, a 7-day cold soak and a combination of natural (wild) fermentation and Burgundian yeast isolates. Only free-run wine used, 10 month maturation on full lees, bottled un-fined and unfiltered.

Maturation: This wine was matured for 10 months in 43% new French oak barriques, 12% one-year old French oak barriques and 45% two-year-old barriques from Tonnellerie François Frères, Ermitage, and Sirugue.

Wine Analysis: Alcohol 13.5%, pH 3.61, and TA 6.2 g/L.

Production: 216 cases produced, \$68 per bottle

Winemaker Comments

Color: Dark Blue-Red color.

Aroma: Complex array of red fruits like cranberry, pomegranate, and mulberries mix with red tropical flowers and earthy elements of mushrooms, dried herbs and sandalwood. The wine has a lovely complement of wood aromas of vanilla and toast.

Palate: Concentrated fruit impressions with great structure and mouthfeel. Fruit compote and dried herbs mix with a medley of earthy notes of leaf litter, dried roses, red candy, spice, cocoa and cherries.

Peak Drinking: Now for twenty plus years.