

BARDEN



Sta. Rita Hills

Our Lady of Guadalupe Vineyard
2022 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.

Vineyards & Region: Sta. Rita Hills –Our Lady of Guadalupe Vineyard consisting of Block 36 - Clone 667, Block 33 - Clone 667, Block 44 - Clone 459, and Block 47 - Clone 828.

Vintage Conditions: Santa Barbara County had a cool spring and mild summer temperatures that extended the growing season. Harvest began in the fall allowing for increased flavors due to hang time. The weather was mild, and we had a long timeframe in which to carefully pick for optimal flavors. Yields were slightly above average but the weather cooperated permitting us to have pronounced flavors and aromatics. We are very happy with the quality of the wine and the "numbers" (pH, TA, Alc.) are perfect resulting in very balanced wines and one of the best vintages in the last twenty years.

Winemaking: The fruit was all hand sorted, fermented 25% percent whole cluster with a 6-day cold soak using only native yeast. Fermented in 1.5T open-top fermenters and punched down by hand twice a day. 18-month maturation on full lees and then pressed on 9/27/22 and barreled down on 9/29/22 using only free-run juice. Bottled un-fined and unfiltered.

Maturati8-month wine was matured for 18 months in 100% new 300-liter French oak barriques, from Tonnellerie François Frères and Ermitage.

Wine Analysis: Alcohol 14.3%, pH 3.63, and TA 5 g/L. **Production:** 419 cases produced

Winemaker Comments

Color: Crimson and Garnet colors.

Aroma: A captivating bouquet of red berries such as ripe strawberries and cherries, intertwined with delicate floral notes of violet and a hint of earthiness reminiscent of forest floor

Palate: Silky and supple on the palate, with flavors of cranberry, raspberry, and pomegranate that are underscored by subtle spices like cinnamon and clove. The wine often exhibits a refined structure with velvety tannins.

Peak Drinking: Now for twenty-plus years.