

JOEL GOTT

Pinot Noir

RITA'S CROWN STA. RITA HILLS

VARIETAL:

100% Pinot Noir

APPELLATION:

Santa Barbara

Sta. Rita Hills

BARREL:

38% New French Oak

62% 1 & 2-year-old

French Oak

ALCOHOL:

13.6%

TASTING NOTES:

A well-balanced wine with bright acidity and ripe, structured tannins, our 2015 Rita's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir reflects its Sta. Rita Hills origins with rich aromas of violets, black cherry, cola and black pepper. An elegant palate of bright, peppery notes and juicy, ripe red fruit flavors is framed by a smooth mid-palate and a hint of vanilla from seamless oak integration.

VINEYARD NOTES:

Rita's Crown Vineyard in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA has a well-earned cult following, given its rocky soils and proximity to the Pacific Ocean. The hills run east-west in Santa Barbara County, bringing cooling breezes and fog through the valley and across the vines at Rita's Crown. An unmatched terroir—east-west coastal valleys, cooling wind and fog, and soils that limit vine vigor—creates the ideal conditions for growing Pinot Noir with intense flavor characteristics. We love the complexity we get from the cool-climate fruit here, with its natural acidity and firm structure.

HARVEST NOTES:

The 2015 growing season in the Sta. Rita Hills was characterized by uneven weather, from an uncharacteristically warm winter with minimal rainfall to an early fall frost. Yields were down across the region; however, the smaller berry clusters at Rita's Crown Vineyard translated to intense color and flavor in our Pinot Noir grapes.

WINEMAKING NOTES:

The grapes for our Rita's Crown Pinot Noir were harvested by hand in late August and then gently destemmed and pressed in the winery. We kept the juice in contact with the skins for 11 days and employed frequent punchdowns during fermentation to give the finished wine its richly concentrated flavor and color. This Pinot Noir was aged for one year in a combination of new and used French oak, imparting a lovely vanilla character to the wine.

