

DRAGONETTE



2021 PINOT NOIR, STA. RITA HILLS



100% PINOT NOIR

VINEYARDS

Radian - 42%
Bentrock - 17%
Sanford & Benedict - 14%
Fiddlestix - 12%
Rancho La Vina - 9%
La Rinconada - 3%
Spear - 3%

CLONES

113, 114, 115, 667, 777, 4, 5, Swan, Mt. Eden,
Heritage Martini (via Martin Ray)

HARVEST DATES

Sept 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 21, 27, 30
Oct 1, 4, 7, 12, 14

FERMENTATION

1.5 ton open top fermenters
97% Destemmed, 3% Whole Cluster
Native yeasts & MLF (in barrel)

AGING & COOPERAGE

15 months on the lees
Neutral French oak barriques

BOTTLED

January 27, 2023

ALCOHOL: 14.5%

CASES PRODUCED: 780

SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$55

GEOGRAPHY & PHILOSOPHY

Located at the cool, foggy windswept western edge of northern Santa Barbara County, Sta. Rita Hills is justly renowned for producing world class Pinot Noir. We select several distinctive vineyard sites in diverse soils, elevations, and aspects, and then farm these sites with exacting detail to obtain fruit of extraordinary quality. This fruit is gently shepherded into Pinot Noirs of aromatic and flavor complexity, textural purity and impeccable balance. This wine is a selection of individual barrels, each intended to add nuance and interest to the final blend.

THE VINEYARDS

RADIAN (SIP CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE): Dramatic, steep, remote and otherworldly. Cold, windy conditions give tiny yields and great concentration. **BENTROCK** (SIP): Steep hills, cold winds and dense fog, wines with concentrated red fruits and minerals. **SANFORD & BENEDICT** (ORGANIC, NOT CERTIFIED): Historic, 50 year old vines at magical site. Concentrated, bright red fruits, elegance and length. **FIDDLESTIX** (SIP): Primarily Botella clay loam soils, with some chert. Wines are rich, high-pitched, spicy, and complex. **RANCHO LA VINA**: Mighty north facing plateau, sandy loam soils, sturdy wines with big fruit presence. **LA RINCONADA**: Mt. Eden clone. Rock-filled, north facing slope. Middle weight, cherry driven, good structure. **SPEAR** (CERTIFIED ORGANIC): Steep slope of sandy loam, swan clone, red fruited wines with fresh herbs.

THE VINTAGE

2021 was a relatively long, even, and generally cool year. Winter was dry and cold, but rainfall was very low until an atmospheric river arrived in March and dumped 5 inches of rain in two days. This late season rain helped push budbreak back a bit and cleansed the soils. The Spring was generally cool and windy, extending flowering somewhat, but neither frost nor shatter were a problem, and yields were reasonable in the Pinot Noir. June was cool and foggy, while July turned warmer. August was relatively cool, with highs reaching the mid 80s for most of the summer. September was cool and sunny, allowing for slow measured ripening. The grapes were picked methodically throughout the cool mornings of September and early October under ideal conditions with perfect acidity and ripeness. 2021 was a winemaker's dream vintage.

OUR WINEMAKING

We harvest each individual lot in the cold early morning hours with rigorous hand sorting for quality, and we process the fruit within hours. Most lots were destemmed, though we employed whole clusters on a small percentage of the fruit. Fermentation was by native yeasts, using a mixture of pumpovers and punchdowns for extraction. At dryness, free run juice was drained to barrel, and the berries gently pressed separately. The wine was aged on its lees before blending. Bottled unfinned & unfiltered.

PROPRIETORS/WINEMAKERS

John Dragonette, Steve Dragonette, & Brandon Sparks-Gillis