

the hilt

The Hilt wines are inspired by a single place: Rancho Salsipuedes in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA and its distinctive vineyards, Bentrack, Radian and Puerta del Mar.

THE OLD GUARD - Wild, Tense and Energetic Blocks high up on the ridgelines, where soils are composed primarily of diatomaceous earth and the whipping winds give us grapes, and ultimately wines, that are complex, energetic, taut, and firmly structured. These are the blocks used to craft The Old Guard.

THE VANGUARD - Sultry, Opulent and Fruit Driven Blocks on the long rolling hills, slightly more protected from the wind give us an opulent and richly-textured style of wine. Wine made from grapes grown on these sites take larger portions of new French oak, and in the end, are dense yet supple. These are the blocks used to craft The Vanguard.

ESTATE - Flirtatious The remaining blocks of vines on the vineyard are situated on slopes that dip gently into the center of the property, creating a natural basin of vineyard blocks. These blocks give us wines that are less extreme than the blocks used to make The Old Guard or The Vanguard, and thus they are blended together to make the Estate wines which represent the soul of the property.

2015

THE HILT
ESTATE
PINOT NOIR

CASES: 2,106
VINEYARDS: Bentrack, Radian, Sanford & Benedict and Bien Nacido. Vine age between 9 and 45 years.
BARRELS: 30% New French oak, 70% neutral French oak
ALC.: 14.1

Heady nose offering a lifted mix of red, black and green aromas. Truly exotic perfume of blackberry, black pepper, mace, cherry, dried sage and freshly turned soil. Unbelievable concentration on the palate. Bold black fruit with a silky texture that is focused and so precise. Finishes with substantial, yet sweet tannin that hints at a long life ahead for this special bottle of pinot noir.

—Winemaker-Matt Dees

92-94 Points

Review by Jeb Dunnuck
The Wine Advocate August 2016

90 Points

JebDunnuck.com August 2017

92-94 Points

Review by Antonio Galloni
Vinous September 2016

