

the old guard

the hilt

2014

PINOT NOIR

The Hilt wines are inspired by a single place: Rancho Salsipuedes in the Sta. Rita Hills AVA and its distinctive vineyards, Bentrock, 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 a larger portion of new French oak, and in the end, are more supple and soft. These are the blocks used to craft The Vanguard.

THE HILT

- 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 Hilt, a wine that represents the soul of the property.

2014

THE OLD GUARD
PINOT NOIR
STA. RITA HILLS

CASES: 508
ALC: 13.5%
BARRELS: 100% neutral French oak

Complex and mysterious with sage, black pepper and copious amounts of black fruit. Black and dark green aromatically. Seriously decadent fruit on the palate. Shaped by the rare and mysterious pure white diatomaceous earth soils on which it grows, this wine displays the perfect level of stem inclusion spice and front tongue tannin. These are balanced and coating tannins created by our mountaintop soils and tough growing conditions. Powerful, but remains so fresh like all 2014 Guards. Black tea. Chalky, crunchy and perfumed.
– Matt Dees, Winemaker

95 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* September 2016

92+ Points

Jeb Dunnuck *The Wine Advocate*
August 2016

