

the vanguard

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 VANGUARD
PINOT NOIR
STA. RITA HILLS

CASES: 998

ALC: 14.1%

BARRELS: 100% neutral French oak

Endowed with a nose that is brooding, dark and seductive. Floral with strong notes of black plum and black tea. Palate surprises with its graceful attack.

Crunchy and herbal with sumptuous blackberry and English Breakfast tea. Slides across the palate with fruit and smoke. Refined and gentle tannins on the tongue are ushered out by a gentle push of sweet red fruit. A ponderous wine with elegance and so many dimensions. Full of pleasure immediately out of the bottle. Simple equation: bright sunshine, exposed ridgelines, rocky soils = powerful and silky fruit with delicious and chewy tannin. Suave and seductive as only Vanguard Pinot Noir can be.

— *Matt Dees, Winemaker*

95 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* September 2016

93 Points

Jeb Dunnuck *The Wine Advocate*
August 2016

