

the old guard

the hilt

2015

PINOT NOIR

The Hilt is 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 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.

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 Estate, a wine that represents the soul of the property.

2015

THE OLD GUARD
PINOT NOIR
STA. RITA HILLS

CASES: 472

ALC: 14.1%

VINEYARDS: Radian and Sanford & Benedict.
Vine age between 8-44 years.

BARRELS: 10% new French oak, 90% neutral
French oak

Exotic, gamey and spicy out of the gates. Mint and menthol. Black pepper, anise, dried sweet tobacco and prosciutto. Red cherries and incense. Aromatically stunning. Stops me in my tracks. Red raspberry leads the attack on the palate followed by herbal notes and a steady building of stem tannin. The freshness, fruit concentration and vinous tannin form a magic trio that builds and builds. Hint of sweet cream and berries on finish. A special wine from some very special blocks. One can taste the diatomaceous earth in the wine. One to lay down and forget about for a few years.

— Matt Dees, Winemaker

93+ Points

Lisa Perrotti-Brown *The Wine Advocate*
Sept. 2017

96+ Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* Sept. 2017

94+ Points

Jeb Dunnuck Aug. 2017

