

the vanguard

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 VANGUARD
PINOT NOIR
STA. RITA HILLS

CASES: 927

ALC: 14.1%

VINEYARDS: Bentrack, Radian, Sanford & Benedict.

Vine age between 8-44 years

BARRELS: 35% new French oak, 65% neutral French oak

So much wild black fruit. Plum and blackberry. High toned and pure. Tons of flesh, but also so muscular. Smokey and resinous with air. Hints of black licorice, mint, dried sage and even dried chorizo. Texturally fascinating wine. A statuesque wine full of fruit density, chalky tannins and vibrancy. A wine with high shoulders and great posture. Serious pinot noir that is just getting started. Just spreading its wings. Density, fruit purity and long lasting tannic structure.

– Matt Dees, Winemaker

94 Points

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

95 Points

Antonio Sept. 2017

94 Points

Jeb Dunnuck *The Wine Advocate*
Aug. 2017

