

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, 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.

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 HILT ESTATE PINOT NOIR

CASES: 2,106

ALC: 14.1%

VINEYARDS: Bentrock, Radian and Sanford & Benedict. Vine age between 8-45 years

BARRELS: 30% New French oak, 70% neutral French oak

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 Points

Lisa Perrotti-Brown

The Wine Advocate Sept. 2017

92 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* Sept. 2017

90 Points

Jeb Dunnuck Aug. 2017

