

estate

1 the hilt

2016

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

- Elegant, Complex and Powerful

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.

2016 ESTATE PINOT NOIR

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THE HILT ESTATE PINOT NOIR

CASES: 4,111

ALC: 14.1%

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

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

Exotic and perfumed with an enticing combination of black, green and red notes. Black pepper, blackberry, Balaton cherry and purple sage. Absolutely jumps out of the glass. Black plum. Defined by velvet attack and silky texture that are the trademarks of the 2016 vintage. Powerful inner perfume mingles with powdered tannins. Focused and fresh. Moves towards a gentle collision between mouthwatering tannins, dense and dark fruit, bright acidity and lingering spice. The most stunning and complete expression to date of the potential of our windy and wild estate vineyards. – Winemaker-Matt Dees

91+ Points - Antonio Galloni *Vinous*

93 Points - William Kelley
The Wine Advocate

93 Points - Jeb Dunnuck
jebdunnuck.com

