

the vanguard

# the hilt

2016

PINOT NOIR

The Hilt is inspired by a single place: Rancho Salsipuedes in the southernmost region of 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

- 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

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THE VANGUARD  
PINOT NOIR  
STA. RITA HILLS

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CASES: 600

ALC: 14.5%

VINEYARDS: Bentrack, Radian, Sanford & Benedict.

Vine age between 8-44 years

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

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Heady and lifted combination of ripe red and black fruits with notes of fresh mushroom and dried rose petals.

Generous and open on the palate with layer upon layer of red raspberry and a floral inner-perfume. Seductive and suave with power and velvet-like elegance. Fine grained tannins lead the way to a richly textured finish that lingers on and on.

— Matt Dees, Winemaker

### 92 Points

*The Wine Advocate* 2018

### 95 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* 2018

### 94+ Points

Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com*  
2018

