

the vanguard

the hilt

2017

PINOT NOIR

The Hilt is defined by its three maritime influenced vineyards in the southwest corner of the Sta. Rita Hills appellation: Radian, Bentrack and Puerta del Mar.

The Old Guard and The Vanguard wines are style-driven expressions. The Vanguard is richly textured, opulent, and velvety, while The Old Guard is all about structure. The Old Guard wines are complex, energetic, taut, and firmly structured. Each “Guard” is a blended barrel selection of pinot noir or chardonnay in a well-defined style.

The Vanguard pinot noir is more about texture, with buoyant fruit, sweetness, and velvet decadence. Sultry and seductive, The Vanguard is a richer style. De-stemmed grapes are matured in 30 percent new French oak. .

2017

THE VANGUARD
PINOT NOIR
STA. RITA HILLS

CASES: 257
ALC: 13.4%
CLONES: Mt. Eden, 667
BARRELS: 12 months in 80% neutral barrels,
20% new French oak. 100% destemmed.

Nose is fruit-driven and expressive. Plush texture with blackberry notes and a cooling herbal touch. Darjeeling tea. Red fruit gives way to fine and lingering tannins.

Brightened by a sense of biting into a fresh raspberry. Currently reserve and quiet on the palate, but rapidly changes with air. Bursting from the seams, but for the time being caged by sweet and fine tannins. Roundness is paired with serious Hilt structure and seamless power.

— Matt Dees, Winemaker

94+ Points Antonio Galloni *Vinous* 2019

96+ Points Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* 2019

