

the hilt

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 Vanguard wines are style-driven expressions. Vanguard is richly textured, opulent, and velvety, while Old Guard is all about structure. 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.

2019

**VANGUARD
PINOT NOIR**
STA. RITA HILLS

CASES: 69

ALC: 13%

BARRELS: 11 months in 35% new French oak, 65% neutral French oak

Seductive version of Vanguard with a nose of dark rose petal, clove and black cherry. Lifted notes of peppercorn, rosemary and sandalwood. Ripe red cherry and blacken plum skin. Silky red fruit dominates the supple and long midpalate. A wine of textural beauty. Turns savory and formal with tremendous earth-driven tannic structure. Resinous and fresh. Lovely structural dimension from gently toasted French oak. A vibrant, proper and an unforgettable send off for the Vanguard blend.

—Matt Dees, Winemaker

92 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* 2022

97 Points

Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* 2022

