

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.

Old Guard pinot noirs are wild, tense, and energetic. This wine is all about structure, with tannins, darkness, and a brooding nature. Complex and energetic, Old Guard wines achieve precision and spice from whole cluster fermentation up to 35 percent. They are matured in neutral oak, which promotes a leaner, less sweet-fruited quality.

2019

OLD GUARD PINOT NOIR

STA. RITA HILLS

CASES: 99

ALC: 13%

BARRELS: 11 months in 100% used French oak
228L barrels. 40% whole cluster inclusion

An evocative and wild wine. Fascinating combination of green herbal notes and gracefully pure red fruit from whole cluster inclusion. Pipe tobacco. Absolutely screams out of the glass with vinous notes of green peppercorn, dried sage and rose hip. Dried strawberry and mint. Hibiscus and damson plum. Welcome addition from gamey complexity. Precise and pretty with tremendous depth of flavor. Long finish with plum skin, sea salt and nori. Stem-influenced structure on the finish with ultra-fine and savory tannins. Long, resinous, and ultimately graceful wine. Classic and pure Old Guard vintage.

—Matt Dees, Winemaker

95 Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* 2022

96+ Points

Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* 2022