

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.

2020

OLD GUARD PINOT NOIR STA. RITA HILLS

CASES: 72

ALC: 13%

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

Herbal, resinous and driven by black cherry. Incense-like from the whole cluster inclusion. Kaleidoscopic nose. Perfumed and so pretty. Inviting and seductive like pinot noir should be. Summer hiking in a pine forest. Savory and reminiscent of a platter with Finocchiona salami, fresh strawberries and dried figs. A wine of grace and grit. Lots of soprano notes and a healthy dose of bass notes for balance. Thoroughly perfumed satin red fruit. Earthy and endowed with dusty and persistent structure that combines with the spices for a finish that spirals. Ultimately a wine of complexity, charm and a surprising level of power. A muscular, but toned Old Guard.

—Matt Dees, Winemaker

93+ Points

Antonio Galloni *Vinous* 2022

96+ Points

Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* 2022



MATT DEES, Winemaker

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO, Vineyard Manager

DREW PICKERING, Associate Winemaker