

Drew Family Cellars

**PINOT NOIR 2005
GATEKEEPERS
STA RITA HILLS**

Vineyard Tech.'s – 60% Rio Vista Vineyard, 40% Ashley's Vineyard

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|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Vineyard: | Rio Vista (60%) | Vineyard: | Ashley's Vineyard (40%) |
| Variety: | Pinot Noir | Variety: | Pinot Noir |
| Harvest date: | September 15, 2005 | Harvest date: | September 23, 2005 |
| Tons/Acre: | 3.5 T/A | Tons/Acre: | 2.5 T/A |
| Sugars: | 24.5-25.5 degrees brix | Sugars: | 24.8 + degrees brix |
| Ph: | 3.32 | Ph: | 3.33 |
| TA: | 7.8 grams/liter | TA: | 8.0 grams/liter |
| Clone: | 115/667/777 | Clone: | 115/777 |
| Rootstock: | 101-14 | Rootstock: | 1103p |
| Spacing: | 5 x 9 feet | Spacing: | 5 x 9 feet |
| Trellis: | Vertical Shoot Position | Trellis: | Vertical Shoot Position |
| Pruning: | Spur prune | Pruning: | Spur prune |
| Orientation: | North-South and East-W | Orientation: | Rows run North-South |
| Slope: | gentle and steep slope | Slope: | gentle slope |
| Aspect: | North East Facing | Aspect: | South and North facing |
| Soil: | Sandy Clay loam | Soil: | Sandy clay loam |

Finished wine

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Alcohol: | 13.9% by vol. | Date of bottling: | August, 2006 |
| TA: | 6.7 grams/liter | Number of cases: | 480 - 750ml/12 |
| Ph: | 3.68 | Release Date: | October, 2006 |
| Oak: | 100% French 35% New French Mt+ 65% Seasoned French Oak | Suggested Retail: | \$35.00/ bottle |
| Clones: | 50%-777, 30%- 115, and 20% -667 | | |
| Other: | Two day cold soak, 20% whole cluster, 30% Native fermentation, gravity racked two times and barrel aged for eleven months. | | |

James Laube from *Wine Spectator* wrote:

Drew Family Gatekeepers - Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills 2005

Score: 89-91 points

DREW FAMILY Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Gatekeepers 2005 89-91 \$35 Smooth and polished, with spicy cherry, wild berry and wild raspberry fruit that's supple and long on the finish. Pretty oak, too, giving it a long, rich aftertaste, with hints of vanilla bean and mocha. 480 cases made.

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This is a blend from two vineyards located on opposite ends of Santa Rita Hills Appellation (Rio Vista Vineyard at the East end and Ashley's Vineyard on the West end). The wine reveals aromas of bing cherries, boysenberry, blackberry tea with hints of watermelon and floral spice notes with a wonderful integration of oak.

Philosophy: The beginning of this project came about while first imagining how to best represent the Pinot Noir variety in the Santa Rita Hills appellation and at the same time capturing a feel for a focus of not one, but perhaps two vineyards. After playing with the above vineyards in 2002 it was evident that blending more than two vineyards diminished the sense of vineyard placement or vineyard *terroir*. So, in other words this project attempted to attain a sense of *terroir* in tandem with a specific appellation and a vineyard or 'vineyards' in this case. The discovery was that two known vineyards expressions could clearly be ascertained in a sensory evaluation while also having, the sum, and benefit with an elevated complexity which included additional nuances that was absent with just one vineyard component. Also, the complexity of the two vineyards was further enhanced by combining three clones from the vineyards with the French clone 777 leading the pack at 50%, 30% clone 115 and 20% clone 667.

It should be mentioned that the ability to maintain a restrained style in the Santa Rita Hills appellation is not always easy given the naturally low yields and a tendency for warm Santa Ana winds to blow offshore often times before Pinot Noir vineyards have fully achieved balanced maturity. This delicate variety perhaps expresses climatic differences more noticeably than others, such as Syrah. And hence a greater difference between the cooler West side of Santa Rita Hills (Ashley's vineyard) compared to a warmer Eastern side of Santa Rita Hills (Rio Vista vineyard).

The 2005 was a beautiful vintage with mild temperatures and balanced yields. This provided a little extra intensity than is usually seen from other SRH's vintages. This vintage expresses the delicate qualities of Pinot Noir very well with structure and finesse built in for a savory complement to fine cuisine. So, reaching for the opposite corner ends of SRH both North West (Ashley's Vineyard) and South East (Rio-Vista) with three clones and a synergistic ratio, ultimately, lends itself to an individual sense of place for both the above vineyards and the existing AVA, while having a style of complexity, varietal quality and rich finesse.

Cheers!