



2003 PINOT NOIR, RIO VISTA VINEYARD
SANTA RITA HILLS



Santa Rita Hills is an exciting, relatively new appellation in the far western part of the Santa Ynez Valley. Located on two corridors next to the Santa Ynez River, the east-west orientation of the valley creates a near-perfect growing area for Pinot Noir. Rio Vista Vineyard is the easternmost vineyard in Santa Rita Hills and is located on a gentle slope with a north-east face on Santa Rosa Road. Fruit from impeccably farmed Rio Vista Vineyard has gone into the Drew Gatekeepers Pinot Noir since 2002, but this is the first year that we have produced a single-vineyard bottling from Santa Rita Hills.

This single vineyard Pinot Noir has a deep red color with scents of ripe, rich berry fruits. It has a generous nose of complex berries, including but not limited to dark raspberries, cranberries, and cherries with notes of floral incense. The fruit weight on the palate is full and focused with very nice support of balanced

acidity and fine-grained tannins. The luminous qualities will continue to age and mature gracefully for years to come. Enjoy!

The grapes for this vintage were harvested on September 8, 2003, with a paltry yield of 1.90 tons per acre. This low yield produced a very high quality grape, with small clusters, great balance and ripe, rich flavors. The Rio Vista harvest was 100% clone 667 on 101-14 rootstock. After primary fermentation had completed, the new wine was gravity racked into 100% French oak barrels, where it aged for 11 months.

Barrel Profile

20% 2000 Francois Freres, Allier HT-TH
20% 2000 Gillet, Allier HT
40% 2002 Sirugue, Elegant, Allier
20% 2003 Sirugue, Elegant+ Allier

Technical Specifications

Bottled: August, 2004
Alcohol: 13.8% by volume
TA: 7.3 grams/liter
pH: 3.62

Released: February, 2005
Production: 120 cases (750ml x 12)
Price : \$30.00/bottle