



# 2021 Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir

## Production Insights

### **Who We Are**

Alma Rosa is deeply rooted in the winemaking history of the Santa Rosa Hills in the southern sector of the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. Here, growing conditions combine sunshine with the powerful cooling influence of onshore winds and fog from the Pacific Ocean. The unique geography, chilly climate, and clay-loam soils attracted Richard Sanford to this area in the early 70s where he pioneered Pinot Noir in Santa Barbara County. Growing consistently balanced wines through sustainable farming is part of the enduring legacy of our founder Richard Sanford.

### **Vineyard**

- 95% El Jabali Vineyard — Blocks 17A, 7, 14, 15 and 12
- 2% Rancho La Viña Vineyard
- 2% La Encantada Vineyard
- 1% Radian Vineyard

### **Vintage Notes**

2021 was a near-perfect vintage in the Sta. Rita Hills. Mild and steady weather throughout the spring and summer allowed grapes to develop slowly, with small berries and clusters. With only one pre-season rainfall, daily marine breezes off the Pacific Ocean just 10 miles away, and no extreme weather events, conditions were ideal for producing fruit of incredible quality, concentration and character.

### **Winemaking**

- Harvested in between mid-September and mid-October, fermented in 1-ton and 2-ton stainless steel tanks and bins
- 100% destemmed
- Aged for 11 months in 30% new French oak, on gross lees and then racked off lees before bottling

### **Tasting Notes**

Displaying a deep dark ruby color, our 2021 Alma Rosa Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir is aromatic and vibrant on the nose. Made up of fruit primarily from our El Jabali estate, our Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir also includes fruit from select vineyard partners across the southern corridor of the Sta. Rita Hills. Representative of the great growing season in our region, this wine shows plump notes of freshly picked strawberries, raspberries, red currants and orange peel, layered with bracing notes of ocean mist, rose petals, sage and thyme. Bright, with mouthwatering acidity and noted salinity, firm tannins are well pronounced, but smooth, providing good structure and a long and complex finish. On the palate, pleasing notes of fresh raspberries and cranberries prevail. Complex, vibrant and seductive, this Pinot Noir expresses the best characteristics of the Sta. Rita Hills' exceptional and unique terroir.

