

Racines,
Santa Rita Hills Pinot Noir 2019
California, USA

Racines



Grape Varieties	100% Pinot Noir
Winemaker	Justin Willett
Closure	Diam
ABV	13%
Acidity	5g/L
Wine pH	3.78
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan, Practising Organic

PRODUCER

Racines is a collaboration between Etienne de Montille of Domaine de Montille in Volnay, and his Californian-born winemaker Brian Sieve. The story of this dynamic project started in 2016 when Etienne and Brian set off on a month's excursion to California. Their aim was to discover the Golden State's great Chardonnay and Pinot Noir producers and to get to know its innumerable appellations. After hundreds of tastings and encounters, they were eventually taken in by the promise of Santa Barbara County. Etienne and Brian were especially struck by the precise and nuanced character of the wines from vineyards in the Santa Rita Hills and Santa Maria Valley. Together, they sought out highly-coveted sites in the Santa Rita Hills. The combination of world-famous vineyards and world-class winemaking makes Racines one of the most exciting projects we have come across.

VINEYARDS

The grapes were grown from various sites that lie on the Santa Rosa Road corridor of the Santa Rita Hills. The vineyards include La Mesa, La Encantada, La Rinconada and Sanford & Benedict vineyard and they have varying soil types, from sandy loam, clay loam, chert and shale.

VINTAGE

The 2019 vintage offered optimal growing conditions in the Santa Rita Hills. Cooler, mild spring days resulted in a later bud break and flowering. Flowering took place after the common springtime winds and helped to ensure a good set. Summer offered overall moderate conditions, with few heat spikes leading to consistent and predictable ripening and longer hang-time. Cooler autumn temperatures allowed the fruit to ripen evenly and steadily, resulting in a later picking date than the previous two vintages. While the yields were slightly smaller than the previous years, the vineyards produced high quality, flavourful fruit.

VINIFICATION

On average 50% whole cluster was retained during fermentation using native yeasts. Fermentation was managed by using foulage and pigeage for approximately three weeks before the wine was placed into 228L barriques. Ageing then took place over 18 months in approximately 15% new French oak.

TASTING NOTES

An attractive wine, with flavours of sweet, dried cherry, mint, tobacco and sage. A savoury style of Pinot Noir, with plenty of aromatic presence, and plenty of fruit in the background.