

Racines,

`Sanford & Benedict` Santa Rita Hills Pinot Noir 2019
California, USA

Racines



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 for this wine are sourced from three different parcels throughout the Sanford & Benedict vineyard. Two of these parcels are between 10 and 12 years old, and the third is the original, own-rooted plantings from 1971. The soil type is botella clay loam, which is full of 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

Fermentation took place using native yeasts, with two thirds whole cluster retained. The wine is then put in 30% new oak 228L barriques for 19 months, before being bottled.

TASTING NOTES

A powerful, brooding wine with a deep, savoury intensity.

Grape Varieties	100% Pinot Noir
Winemaker	Justin Willett
Closure	Diam
ABV	13%
Acidity	5.1g/L
Wine pH	3.75
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan, Practising Organic