

Racines,
`Sanford & Benedict` Santa Rita Hills Pinot Noir 2020
California, USA

Racines



Grape Varieties	100% Pinot Noir
Winemaker	Brian Sieve
Closure	Diam
ABV	13%
Residual Sugar	2.5g/L
Acidity	5.2g/L
Wine pH	3.8
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan

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 2020 vintage began with ideal growing conditions, continuing into spring with mild temperatures leading to evenly developed clusters and an early budbreak. The little winter rain resulted in smaller berries but with a high concentration of flavours. The summer months were warm, allowing the grapes to enjoy a long ripening season. Harvest was carried out in early August, with normal yields and exceptional fruit quality.

VINIFICATION

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

TASTING NOTES

Lifted floral aromatics, sandalwood and bright red cherry on the nose. The palate shows a generosity of sweet red berry fruit, thyme and dry spice flavours that are beautifully balanced with the darker, more brooding, black cherry and crushed basalt notes.