

Melville Sta. Rita Hills Estate Sandy's Block Pinot Noir 2019

Selected by: Master Sommelier Evan Goldstein, Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon, and Master Sommelier Tim Gaiser



Final Deductions

VINTAGE 2019
GRAPE Pinot Noir
GEOGRAPHY Not Europe
COUNTRY USA
LARGER REGION California
SMALLER REGION Central Coast
SUB REGION Sta. Rita Hills

Rationale

Pinot Noir is capable of some of the most exquisite examples of red wine imaginable. Unfortunately, in many spots globally, it is at the mercy of fickle weather and, as such, less than spectacular harvests making it one of the most challenging grape varieties to produce.

California's moderate Mediterranean-like weather combined with cool coastal enclaves -- from Anderson Valley in the north to Santa Barbara in the south -- provides Pinot Noir growers more security in their efforts to cultivate this most difficult of grape varieties.

Santa Barbara County (including Santa Maria and Santa Ynez Valleys; also Sta. Rita Hills): Here, the cool breezes from the Pacific Ocean create a fine environment to grow Pinot Noir. Santa Barbara Pinot Noirs often offer luscious strawberry aromas and flavors, with herbal notes.

Melville Vineyards is situated in the Sta. Rita Hills, located in the Western Santa Ynez Valley of Santa Barbara County, currently has 120 acres under vines.

Sight

BRIGHTNESS Day Bright
CLARITY Clear
COLOR DEPTH Light
COLOR Ruby
RIM VARIATION Ruby
Stained Tears: None

Structure

RESIDUAL SUGAR Dry
ACID Med+
ALCOHOL Med+
TANNIN Medium
TEXTURE Lean / Tart
FINISH Long
COMPLEXITY Med+

Aroma & Taste

RED FRUIT Red Plum • Cranberry • Red Raspberry • Red / Sour Cherry • Pomegranate
Condition: Fresh, Ripe
BLACK FRUIT Black Raspberry • Black Cherry • Blackberry *Condition: Fresh, Ripe*
CITRUS FRUIT Tangerine *Condition: Fresh Part: Peel / Zest*
FLORAL Hibiscus • Rose • Jasmine *Condition: Fresh*
GREEN VEGETABLE Dark Leafy Greens • Olive (Green) • Arugula
OTHER VEGETABLE Mushrooms (Brown) • Beet (Purple) • Tomato Leaf • Rhubarb
HERBAL Tea Leaf / Bergamot • Sage • Chervil • Laurel / Bay Leaf
OTHER SPICES Sassafras • Licorice (Black) • Chinese Five Spice
ORGANIC EARTH Forest Floor • Turned Dirt / Clay
INORGANIC EARTH Mineral / Rock
OAK AGING Yes *Oak Intensity: Low*
OAK INFLUENCE Used Barrique
PERCEIVED WINEMAKING CHOICES Partial Whole Cluster • Added / Stem Inclusion