



2010 Estate Pinot Noir - *Sandy's* ***Estate Small Lot Collection - Sta. Rita Hills***

2010 marks our second bottling of Sandy's and has now been officially designated as part of our Small Lot Collection of Pinot Noirs. The Sandy's block is named in honor of Ron Melville's sister and was deliberately planted on the extremely sandy northeast section of our vineyards. Nestled deep in the canyon, Sandy's has performed heroically over the years particularly when considering its extreme location combined with the poor, well drained soils of this section. This four acre block is also special because it contains clonal material representative of our new era of plantings and includes selections from Merry Edwards, Calera (Clone 90), and clones 459 and 114. These four selections, when planted on sand, produce an enticing juxtaposition of wildly intense and pretty aromatics with a very ethereal and harmonic palate impression. The fruit was fermented in small (1.5 ton) open-top fermenters. Total skin and stem contact averaged 30 days (7 day cold soak, 2 + weeks of fermentation and 1 + week extended maceration). From the press, the wine was transferred directly into neutral French oak barrels where it remained sur lie with no sulfur until June, when it was gently racked for the first time and prepared for bottling in December. 33% stem inclusion. Yields were 2.3 lbs/vine (2.1 tons/acre).

Robert Parker: 94 points

Stephen Tanzer: 92 points

Tasting notes: Bright and lifted holiday spice aromatics of nutmeg, cinnamon, anise and clove emerge initially, while hints of dried currants, cedar, pink-peppercorn, and dark chocolate also develop. Tertiary marine-like elements of brine, sea mist, and kelp are noticeable as well. The palate impression is savory and generous and leaves the mouth coated in its' abundant minerality.