



## 2013 Estate Pinot Noir - *Sandy's* *Estate Small Lot Collection - Sta. Rita Hills*

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 2.6 lbs/vine (2.4 tons/acre).

Parker: 96 points - Jeb Dunnuck

Vinous: 93 points - Antonio Galloni

**tasting notes:** Garnet red in color, deep and rich aromatics of mahogany, black tea, Chambord liqueur and graham cracker radiate up front while subtle hints of orange zest, lilac and strawberry creamsicle linger in the background. Plush and velvety on the palate with soft and well integrated tannins that add depth and precision to the wine's generous, elongated finish.

AVA: Sta. Rita Hills

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Cases Produced: 384

Clones: Merry Edwards, Calera, 459, 114

Elevage: Aged in neutral barrel (10-20 year old French oak)

Alcohol: 15.0%

Fermentation: 33% Whole Cluster Release Date: 06.01.15

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