



2012 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. 40% stem inclusion. Yields were 2.6 lbs/vine (2.4 tons/acre).

Robert Parker: 96 points

Antonio Galloni: 94 points

tasting notes: Boasting a deep garnet hue, holiday nuances of cinnamon stick, warm pie crust, eucalyptus and pine sap radiate immediately while fruit characteristics of dried persimmon, strawberry gelatin, apple cider and blackberry compote also linger. Texturally, the wine is focused and precise, with polished, well rounded tannins that enhance the wines' lush and generous finish.

AVA: Sta. Rita Hills

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Cases Produced: 391

Clones: Merry Edwards, Calera, 459, 114

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

Alcohol: 15.0%

Release Date: 07.09.14

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