

2020 Barrel Select Pinot Noir

Production Insights

Who We Are

Alma Rosa is deeply rooted in the winemaking history of the Santa Rosa Hills in the southern sector of the Sta. Rita Hills AVA. Here, growing conditions combine sunshine with the powerful cooling influence of onshore winds and fog from the Pacific Ocean. The unique geography, chilly climate, and clay-loam soils attracted Richard Sanford to this area in the early 70s where he pioneered Pinot Noir in Santa Barbara County. Growing consistently balanced wines through sustainable farming is part of the enduring legacy of our founder Richard Sanford.

Vineyard

- 100% El Jabali Vineyard — Blocks 15 and 16A, Sta. Rita Hills

Vintage Notes

The 2020 vintage began with much-needed rain in March and April, which resulted in delayed bud break. An ideal early growing season with classic Sta. Rita Hills conditions, including daily wind and fog from the Pacific Ocean, the 2020 vintage differentiated itself from recent vintages due to significant heat throughout mid-August and September. The resulting crop yielded fruit with ideal ripeness and character. Santa Barbara County remained one of the only wine regions on the West Coast unaffected by fires.

Winemaking

- Block 15 100% destemmed, Block 16A 20% whole cluster
- Cold soak 4-5 days, followed by 10 days of fermentation with max temp of 95°F
- 1/2 inoculated, 1/2 natural yeast
- Free-run and press-blended in tank and barreled down in 45% new French oak, then allowed to go through natural malolactic fermentation
- Wine sat on gross lees till mid-December when it was racked off lees via bulldog and allowed to settle naturally, aged for 12 months total in 45% new French Oak
- Bottled unfiltered and unfinned in January 2021

Tasting Notes

The 2020 Alma Rosa Barrel Select Pinot Noir is a special blend created from our favorite barrels from our estate vineyard, El Jabali. Each component was hand-selected by winemaker Samra Morris with the goal of creating a cuvée representative of the special site and vintage. A dark ruby color in the glass, upon pouring, there are aromas of blueberries, black cherries and violets. On the palate, black currants, plum and tobacco combined with chalky tannins and minerality lead to a long and complex finish. This wine is lush and powerfully complex, while still displaying the hallmark freshness of Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir.

