

2021 Rancho La Viña 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% Rancho La Viña Vineyard
- Clones 115 and 114

Vintage Notes

2021 was a near-perfect vintage in the Sta. Rita Hills. Mild and steady weather throughout the spring and summer allowed grapes to develop slowly, with small berries and clusters. With only one pre-season rainfall, daily marine breezes off the Pacific Ocean just 10 miles away, and no extreme weather events, conditions were ideal for producing fruit of incredible quality, concentration and character.

Winemaking

- Block 1 was 100% destemmed, Block 10 was 10% whole-cluster fermented
- 30% fermented in closed stainless-steel tanks, 20% in open top tanks and 50% in 1-ton bins
- Free run and barreled in 50% new French oak and allowed to go through natural malolactic fermentation; aged for a total of 11 months
- Wine sat on the gross lees until mid-July when it was racked and allowed to settle naturally
- Bottled unfiltered and unfined

Tasting Notes

The Rancho La Viña Vineyard is located on Santa Rosa Road in the southwest corridor of the Sta. Rita Hills. The Pinot Noir fruit from this site tends to produce wines that are both darker and richer in expression than many of the other vineyards in the area. Our luscious and concentrated 2021 Rancho La Viña Pinot Noir is no exception to this rule. A deep ruby hue sets the stage, followed by dark cherries, orange peel, flowers and a touch of sage on the nose. The palate delights in the integration of red and black fruit flavors, candied orange peel, baking spices and plush tannins, culminating in a delectably harmonious experience.

