



BARDEN

2018 Pinot Noir, Sta. Rita Hills

The BARDEN trade name is Doug Margerum's middle name and its English meaning is "Lives near the boar's den..." thusly, we have adorned the label with an image of the wild boar that is pervasive in our area's vineyards.

Barden Pinot Noir is formed to touch the heart, mind, body and soul. It's wrapped in a cloak of mystery, lightly adorned, and respected. Ours is a swirling worldly vision, moody but aware. We dared and entered this world with trepidation. Pinot Noir is fiendishly complex; we realize we are on the road to madness. It lives in the boar's den... DM

Vineyard Region: Sta. Rita Hills – La Encantada Vineyard (28%), Sanford & Benedict Vineyard (10%), John Sebastiano Vineyard (18%), Radian Vineyard (9%), Donnachadh (16%), Spear (19%) – a fourteen barrel selection.

Vintage Conditions: 2018 was a "normal" vintage allowing us to have a longer picking season, as the fall days became cooler and the days shorter ripening evolved slowly. Our first grapes ripened in early to mid-September and the last varieties hung on vines until early November. With August start dates the harvest becomes very compacted as the heat of summer ripens the grapes quicker.

It was a mellow growing season and the lack of any dramatic weather kept the vines healthy and happy with no signs of yellowing leaves and vines shutting down. Mild weather allows for more hang time which means the grapes reach that perfect balance of acidity and brix and develop more complex flavors.

Harvest Dates: August 23rd – September 21st, 2018

Winemaking: The fruit was all hand sorted, with a percentage of whole cluster, a 7-day cold soak and a combination of natural (wild) fermentation and Burgundian yeast isolates. Only free-run wine used, 10 month maturation on full lees, bottled un-fined and unfiltered.

Maturation: This wine was matured for 10 months in 43% new French oak barriques, 12% one-year old French oak barriques and 45% two-year-old barriques from Tonnellerie François Frères, Ermitage, and Sirugue.

Wine Analysis: Alcohol 13.5%, pH 3.45, and TA 6.1 g/L.

Production: 538 six packs

Reviews: Antonio Galloni- 93 Points August, 2020

Winemaker comments:

Color: Beautiful light maroon and subtle blood red hues.

Aroma: Very complex briar patch plum fruit aromas of cranberry, mushrooms and mulberries complemented with subtle wood aromatics of vanilla, toast, and lovely red fruits.

Palate: Bright and lean on the attack with long lasting rich fruit impressions with earthy structure, dried roses, candied fruit, spice, cocoa and Bing cherries

Peak Drinking: Now – and with up to twenty years of bottle age from vintage.