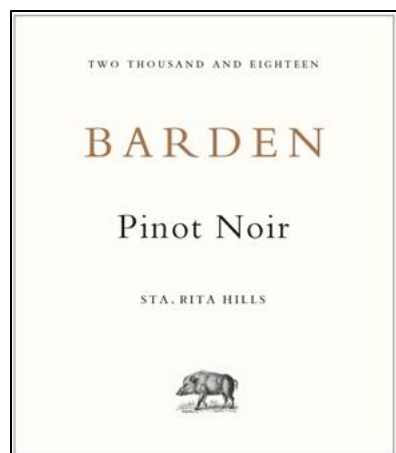




BARDEN



Sta. Rita Hills

2023 Pinot Noir
Sta. Rita Hills

BARDEN focuses exclusively on the terroir of the Sta. Rita Hills sourcing fruit from top vineyards in the appellation, showcasing the region's classic typicity for Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah. With its diverse, marine-based soils and refrigerated-sunlight climate, the Sta. Rita Hills provides a perfect place for Doug "Barden" Margerum to leverage his forty years of food and wine experience to make limited amounts of world-class, cuisine-friendly and age-worthy wines. The BARDEN name's English meaning is "Lives near the boar's den..." Thus, the image of a wild boar, which is pervasive in our area's vineyards.

Vineyards & Region: Sta. Rita Hills – Our Lady of Guadalupe Vineyard (45%), Bontroch Vineyard (19%), Radian Vineyard (19%), Sanford & Benedict Vineyard (17%). The vineyard selections are very diverse this year and all from the southern portion of SRH with both old vine (S&B) and young vine (OLG), plus middle south (S&B) and very western (OLG, Bontroch and Radian) parts of the SRH and mostly, limestone and diatomaceous soils. The valley is oriented in an east-west direction allowing the cold ocean air to roll in every day and in combination with our sunny climate, you create *refrigerated-sunlight* growing conditions.

Vintage Conditions: Santa Barbara County harvest began about a month later than in 2022. The harvest was long and slow as mild temperatures persisted. We were delighted with the quality of the grapes as extended hang time added to the complexity of the wines. The winter rains percolated the soil and salts that had accumulated in the soil, allowing the vines to access previously tied-up nutrients. Harvest for most varietals was almost a month behind "normal". We are convinced this will go down as one of the best harvests in recent memory.

Winemaking: The fruit was all hand sorted, with a percentage of whole cluster. Only free-run wine used, 18 month maturation on fine lees, only racked to bottle and bottled un-fined and unfiltered.

Maturation: All native yeast and native malo. 80% new French 300L barrel and 20% neutral French 300L barrels from Tonnellerie François Frères and Tonnellerie Ermitage.

Wine Analysis: Alcohol 13.3%, pH 3.6, and TA 5.5 g/L. **Bottled:** 3.20.2025 - 157 cases produced

Color: Deep velvety and intense red/black color, hints of taupe and taupe

Aroma: Ripe red and black cherries, burnt raspberry, and blackberry pie, intertwined with delicate floral notes of violet and rose. Subtle hints of undergrowth, truffle, and exotic spices.

Palate: Lovely and textured, silky and velvety, enveloping the palate. Intense fruit flavors are enhanced by spicy, mineral, and woody nuances. Fine and resolved oak, stem and grape tannins. A balanced and sophisticated structure. A long finish which would even more remarkable with the appropriate cuisine.