

2015 PINOT NOIR

KESSLER - HAAK VINEYARD STA. RITA HILLS

138 CASES PRODUCED

This site is taking form as our statement of what whole cluster grapes can do for pinot noir, and it's in spectacular form in this 2015, with myriad and generous flavors in fine balance. In 2015 we repeated most of what made the 2014 such a success, but with confidence in the fruit's racy virtues this time we co-fermented the whole cluster half of the fruit at the bottom of the tanks with destemmed fruit on top.

At first there's a soft and gracious profile on the palate with this 2015, and the wine is explosively aromatic. The red berry core of the Dijon clones here is all mingled up with deep botanical layers. With some air the wine fattens up with cherry and orange oil, and shifts focus from herbs and flowers toward a flashy, exotic spiciness. If you've ever made your own Morroccan rub with a mortar and pestle, this might take you back.

The textural component of stem inclusion is what I'm most excited about here: there's an elegant and lifted firmness of stem tannins throughout the finish. It pulls together in the mouth with very energetic effect—not a bit chewy or coarse, just lively, spicy and fascinating. This wine is in fine form now, but it will age into a fabulously complex beauty over the next 10 to 15 years.

BLEND 100% Pinot NoirVINEYARD Kessler - HaakLOCATION Santa Rita Hills

ALCOHOL 13%

VINIFICATION 10% New French Oak

BARREL AGING 16 Months

PRESS REVIEWS

Antonio Galloni's Vinous

"The 2015 Pinot Noir Kessler Haak Vineyard is one of the most exuberant wines in this range. A rush of dark red and purplish-hued stone fruits, flowers, spices and new leather makes a strong opening statement. This is an especially exotic, flamboyant, dense wine. The 50% whole clusters are felt in the 2015's aromatic intensity, while the decision to vinify only with pumpovers seems to have brought out considerable fruit intensity." - AG **92 Points**

