

# 2017 PINOT NOIR

## KESSLER - HAAK VINEYARD STA. RITA HILLS

300 CASES PRODUCED

Kessler Haak is planted in the northern half of the Sta. Rita Hills along Route 246, where the soils are sandy and Pinot Noir skews toward deep and vibrant fruitiness. We saw that over many years during our work with Clos Pepe, which is right next door. We started making this Pinot Noir in 2014, with the intention of foraying into a more radical expression of Pinot Noir fermented with whole clusters (with the grapes left on their stems).

A vineyard needs certain attributes to pull off that approach. You need a lot of inherent fruitiness. Stems add complexity but can also be sobering to a wine's sense of fruit. But when this vineyard came up as a possibility for us, we thought of our old Clos Pepe bottlings and decided this might be just the right vineyard to push the envelope with stem inclusion.

This 2017 bottling flaunts a crimson hue and outstanding fragrance. The florality is striking and dark, as is the fruit, which comes as a medley of deep colored and red berries. The whole clusters don't really manifest greenery here; instead, the effect is black tea and resinous sandalwood. On the palate, it's immediately energetic with racy pomegranate flavor. That nervy thread keeps the energy going as the wine swells with vibrant dark berries, then there's a lithe and mouth-watering segue into salty minerality and subtle savory herbs.

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**BLEND** 100% Pinot Noir

**VINEYARD** Kessler - Haak

**LOCATION** Santa Rita Hills

**ALCOHOL** 13%

**VINIFICATION** 10% New French Oak

**BARREL AGING** 16 Months

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### PRESS REVIEWS

#### Antonio Galloni's Vinous

"A wine of density and power, the 2017 Pinot Noir Kessler-Haak is brooding in the glass. Lavender, rose petal, spice and wild cherry infuse the 2017 with notable depth and complexity. The 50% whole clusters work well here, but the Kessler-Haak remains a dark, brooding Pinot in need of at least a few years in the cellar. There is plenty of personality just waiting to emerge." - AG **93 Points**

#### Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2017 Pinot Noir Kessler Haak Vineyard saw more stems than the other cuvees (50%) and offers an exotic, perfumed style that carries lots of blue fruits, blood orange, and floral aromas and flavors. Playing in the medium-bodied, elegant end of the spectrum, it has silky tannins, integrated acidity, and a great finish. It's another beautiful wine from this estate that will evolve for at least a decade." - JD **94 Points**

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