



# 2021 PINOT NOIR

## FE CIEGA - DEVOTO

### STA. RITA HILLS

#### TASTING NOTE:

Devoto showcases the improbably earthy gravitas that Pinot Noir can provide when grown in select patches of the Sta. Rita Hills. Fe Ciega's terroir can always offer fruit, but its signature thing is an exotic and savory seriousness. To focus on that aspect, this wine is comprised solely of the "heritage clones." These old California genetics were selected for sunshine, so they retain a lot of savory character when grown in marginal climates.

The wine is deep garnet, and the aromatics are full of broody intrigue. It's a low register spread of fragrances with scents of forest duff, sandalwood, iron and wool, but there are pretty high notes of dried flowers plus a streak of sweet cherries. The wine moves across the palate with broad curves, with glossy red fruits girded by tannins that evoke resinous spice pods. Freshness builds in the back end before gentle notes of coffee, iron and woody herbs lace the long finish.

#### VINTAGE & WINEMAKING:

2021 was pretty much a dream vintage for us, particularly with Pinot Noir. It finished ripening with perfectly cool, breezy and dry conditions. All four clones were harvested relatively late, in the last days of September, with just perfect numbers on brix and pH—an auspicious outcome for our premier vintage of fully hands-on farming at Fe Ciega.

The "Heritage" clones that comprise this cuvee, Pommard and Mt. Eden, were gently destemmed with 28% whole clusters preserved at the bottom of tank. We immediately inoculated with our house native yeast (cultured from grapes picked during sampling), then pumped the wine over twice daily until it was dry. We left it on the skins for a few more days for further extraction.

The wine aged on its fine lees in French oak barrels (33% new) for 14 months. After adding a minimal amount of sulfites, it was bottled without fining and filtration.

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**BLEND** 100% Pinot Noir, clones 115 and 667

**VINEYARDS** Fe Ciega

**AVA** Sta. Rita Hills

**ALCOHOL** 13.0%

**VINIFICATION** open-top fermentation with 17% whole-clusters

**BARREL AGING** 11 months in French Oak barrels, 27% new

**TOTAL PRODUCTION** 240 Cases (11 barrels made)

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