



2022 PINOT NOIR

KESSLER-HAAK

STA. RITA HILLS

VINTAGE & WINEMAKING:

We started making Pinot Noir from Kessler-Haak 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). Years before that we used to work with the fence-sharing neighbor, Clos Pepe vineyard, and from that we knew that this area provides Pinot Noir with all the acidity and brash fruitiness that's required if you want to use a lot of whole clusters to good effect.

The Dijon clones that comprise this cuvee—113, 114, 115 and 667—were loaded into tanks with an average of 28% whole clusters. 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 fine lees in French oak barrels (57% new) for 15 months, then was bottled without fining or filtration.

PRESS REVIEWS

WINE ADVOCATE, Matthew Luczy

"A classically dark, brooding yet lifted expression of this pocket of the Sta. Rita Hills. The nose combines nuanced dark fruit aromas, exotic spices and dried tobacco flourishes. The palate is silky and energetic yet deep and layered, finishing with impressive saturation, weightless, earth-tinged decadence and fine yet grippy tannins layered with streaks of saline lift. This is a highlight of The Ojai Vineyard's lineup, and it should drink beautifully over the coming decade." **94 Points**

VINOUS, Antonio Galloni

"A wine of stature, the 2022 Pinot Noir Kessler-Haak Vineyard possesses notable presence. Dark cherry, plum, licorice, incense, leather, tobacco and menthol are all packed into the wine's sturdy yet mid-weight frame. Incise tannins need time to soften. Whole cluster inclusion is 28%." **93 Points**

BLEND 100% Pinot Noir, Clones 113, 114, 115, 667

VINEYARDS Kessler-Haak

AVA Sta. Rita Hills

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VINIFICATION native yeast fermentation with 28% whole-clusters

BARREL AGING 15 months in 57% new French oak

TOTAL PRODUCTION 322 Cases

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THE
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