

Luli

2020 LULI PINOT NOIR SANTA RITA HILLS

Luli represents a partnership formed by Sara Floyd and the Pisoni Family. Sara Floyd is a Master Sommelier with many years of food and wine experience. The Pisoni Family is known for their eponymous vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands and for Pisoni Estate and Lucia wines.

Deciding they would make a great partnership and noting the shortage of handcrafted wines at reasonable prices, they set out to create a new line of wines for this niche. To achieve this, Floyd and the Pisoni Family focus on purchasing grapes from multiple vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands and the greater Monterey County—California coastal regions excellent for growing cool-climate grapes.

WINEMAKER: Jeff Pisoni

CASES PRODUCED: 2,800

ALCOHOL: 14.1%

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THE VINTAGE:

The year 2020 in the Sta. Rita Hills was one vineyard managers and winemakers will not soon forget. While other California wine growing regions suffered the uncertainty of fires peppering the state, the Sta. Rita Hills experienced great weather at budbreak and flowering, as well as cooler-than-average early summer months. Heat waves hit the area as autumn approached, but careful attention was paid to the fruit to ensure a robust and healthy harvest within vineyards. Many California winemakers turned to the Sta. Rita Hills for the exceptional crop produced during the year.

THE VINEYARD:

The grapes for the 2020 Luli Pinot Noir from the Sta. Rita Hills are sourced from five different exceptional, sustainably-farmed vineyards: La Encantada, Pali, Peak, Church, and Zotovich. Located at 100 to 700 ft above sea level, these vineyards benefit from the Region 1 Climate Classification, meaning cool-climate with heavy fog and strong winds. The appellation is unique in several ways. Running east to west and opening up to the ocean, each vineyard contains very different soils, ranging from sandy marine sediment to alluvial hillside terrain.

THE WINEMAKING:

The Luli Pinot Noir was made with classic winemaking techniques: hand-sorting of the fruit, native yeasts for fermentation and production in small lots. The wine was aged in 'neutral' French oak barrels and was not fined or filtered. The resulting balanced wine is a tribute to the region's success with Pinot Noir.

TASTING NOTES:

An exciting departure from its distant northern neighbor the Santa Lucia Highlands, the 2020 Luli Santa Rita Hills Pinot Noir marks the first vintage from this famed, coastal California AVA. A vibrant ruby core dances in the glass with each swirl, while vibrant notes of cherry pie, raspberry, and fresh cranberry fill the air with an intoxicating melange of aromas. This distinct freshness carries over onto the palate as this wine remains light on its feet. Bright, juicy flavors of redcurrant, kirsch, and strawberry compote play beautifully with more savory notes of cedar, violets, sassafras and crushed lavender. On the finish, bright acidity and fine-grained tannin marry to complete this exquisite Pinot Noir.