



2016 FIDDLESTIX VINEYARD, STA. RITA HILLS PINOT NOIR

Etude believes winemaking begins in the vineyard long before harvest, with superior grape growing leading to wines with authentic varietal expression and a telling reflection of where they are grown and produced.

Sta. Rita Hills is home to some of Santa Barbara's best-known Pinot Noirs and occupies the western portion of Santa Ynez Valley between Buellton and Lompoc. The region's east-to-west orientation, extreme proximity to the Pacific Ocean and ancient marine bed soils are perfect for world class Pinot Noir.

VINTAGE & VINEYARD

The extended drought was beginning to cause real concern as the 2016 growing season kicked off. However, a very warm spring and early summer with almost no rain allowed the fruit to ripen at a very steady and deliberate pace. July and August brought cool nights and gentle warmth to the Sta. Rita Hills that allowed the smaller-sized crop to mature perfectly, producing small berries in pristine condition. The drier-than-normal conditions and the region's abundant sunshine resulted in wines with excellent concentration, balance, color and intensity, resulting in Pinot Noir fruit showing exceptional depth and finesse.

The vineyard lies a few miles inland alongside the Santa Ynez River bench at the western end of the transverse-oriented Santa Ynez Valley. Fiddlestix receives a consistent marine influence from Pacific currents, but sits low enough against the hills to achieve some protection from the area's strong afternoon winds. Exposure to coastal breezes and fog ensures cooling influences throughout extended sunny days, which helps to add depth and vibrancy to the fruit. Temperatures are rarely above the mid 70's. In 35 small blocks on 96 acres, a variety of rootstocks and clones are planted in well-draining Gazos and Batella clay loam and calcareous marine shale providing complexity and diversity to the vineyard. Nearby are some of California's most famed and historic Pinot Noir vineyards.

WINEMAKING

Crafted with the same minimal winemaking techniques no matter the growing region, Etude Pinot Noir purely reflects the unique essence and character of the vineyard, maintaining Etude's signature hallmarks of aromatic intrigue, vibrancy of expression and depth in ageability.

TASTING NOTES

Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir always shows a sense of elegance, with silky, glossy tannins and this vintage continues that tradition. Plush and round, full without being overly heavy, aromas and flavors of Boysenberry, Marionberry, cherry blossom, hibiscus and cherry cordial notes are present throughout with a touch of oak spice, cinnamon and toasted graham cracker. The finish lingers, long and satisfying with a beautiful sense of minerality from the calcareous soils, a signature of Fiddlestix Vineyard. Restraint and finesse are synonymous with this wine. Incredibly enjoyable now but with the potential to age for several years.

SOURCING

Fiddlestix Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills,
Santa Barbara County

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Pinot Noir

ANALYSIS

Alc: 14.2%

CLONES

667, 777, 113, 115, Pommard 4,
Pommard 5

VINIFICATION

100% French oak barrels for
12 months, 25% new

SUSTAINABLE CERTIFICATION:

Sustainability In Practice (SIP)
Certified Vineyard