

# 2016 PINOT NOIR

## KESSLER - HAAK VINEYARD STA. RITA HILLS

277 CASES PRODUCED

Kessler-Haak is planted in the Sta Rita Hills right next door to Clos Pepe vineyard, which we worked with from 1999-2008. Over those years we saw that this patch of the appellation, which is cool and dominated by sandy loam soils, produces Pinot Noir that is vibrantly fruity and high acid. Those traits are boons for exploring something we'd been looking to augment our offerings of Pinot Noir with—a prominently whole-cluster driven Pinot Noir.

We tinkered with other sites first, but Adam decided that in order to pull it off correctly we needed to this patch of Sta Rita Hills. In the first year we were experimental and fermented two lots. The whole cluster wine was softer in acidity, pleasantly grippy with tannins but overall quite herbal. The destemmed lot was zippy, fresh, fruity, but a little too straightforward. Together though, they were terrific. The approach affirmed, we now ferment with the whole cluster half beneath the destemmed fruit in the same tank.

In 2016 we enjoyed the first relatively cool year in this vineyard, and so we found a new expression. In '14 and '15 the stems spoke with a clear voice, which was okay with us because the wine was intended to be different. With this release the fruit is so profound the stems provide more subtle accent. Minty cool-hued herbal notes are like a fine gauze over fleshy red fruit, with those orange zest and pomegranate streaks we're learning come with the site. Stems also bring a notable fine inward tug of tannin here, so this one can take heartier food pairings—stuff with some grill char is a good place to start.

---

**BLEND** 100% Pinot Noir

**VINEYARD** Kessler - Haak

**LOCATION** Santa Rita Hills

**ALCOHOL** 13%

**VINIFICATION** 10% New French Oak

**BARREL AGING** 16 Months

---

### PRESS REVIEWS

#### Antonio Galloni's Vinous

"The 2016 Pinot Noir Kessler Haak Vineyard is delicate and very nicely balanced, with all of its elements in the right place. Sandy soils and 50% whole clusters both accent the aromatics and inner perfume. The 2016 finishes with terrific energy and cut to round things out."

- AG **92 Points**

#### Jeb Dunnuck

"Lots of cherries, strawberries, savory herbs, and salty minerality flow from the 2016 Pinot Noir Kessler Haak, which is medium-bodied and more structured and tannic than some of the other releases. With plenty of fruit, rock solid mid-palate depth, and building tannins, give it a year or three." - JD **93+ Points**

---

109 S. MONTGOMERY ST. OJAI, CALIFORNIA  
805.798.3947  
TASTINGROOM@OJAIVINEYARD.COM  
OJAIVINEYARD.COM

THE  
OJAI  
VINEYARD

