



## 2019 PINOT NOIR

### KESSLER HAAK

#### STA. RITA HILLS

We started making Kessler Haak Pinot Noir 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). A vineyard needs certain attributes to pull off that approach. You need a lot of inherent fruitiness and acidity. Stems add complexity but can also be sobering to fruit expression. Looking back on our old Clos Pepe bottlings (grown adjacently) we decided this might be just the right vineyard for this experiment.

2019 was our coolest and latest harvest yet at Kessler Haak. This vineyard provided us outstanding fruit, albeit a tad riper than our norm. We generally like to see Pinot Noir around 13% alcohol. This release is 14%, but we're not complaining and we don't expect anyone else will. This site showed that it can carry a bit more alcohol without going in any confectionary direction or compromising acidity. This Pinot Noir has a lavish tilt that is perfectly balanced with mouthwatering freshness.

The dark violet-garnet hue precludes the intensity of this wine. The fragrance is commanding, with concentrated scents of red stone fruits and berries that are swaddled in all sorts of botanical complexity. Coriander, sandalwood, bay leaves and nutmeg give a stirring effect. It hits the palate with a smooth glide, luscious almost, but enlivened with bright acidity. You'll find expansive notes of dark berries, cherry pit and spice, with a fine black tea astringency that bridles the wine's explosiveness. This will age beautifully no doubt, but it definitely doesn't need time to emerge. This Pinot showed up ready to impress!

---

**BLEND** 100% Pinot Noir

**VINEYARDS** Kessler Haak

**AVA** Sta. Rita Hills

**ALCOHOL** 14%

**VINIFICATION** 50% whole cluster fermentation

**BARREL AGING** 15 Months in 33% new French oak barrels

**TOTAL PRODUCTION** 207 Cases