

Racines

2019 SANFORD & BENEDICT PINOT NOIR

Racines is a collaboration by two classic houses from France, led by Etienne de Montille and Brian Sieve of Burgundy and Rodolphe Peters of Champagne. The team came together to join their individual experiences in hand-crafting wines of purity and transparency to create a range of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from the cool climate of the Sta. Rita Hills in California.

VINEYARD

A combination of three parcels throughout the famous Sanford & Benedict vineyard. Two of the plantings are 10-12 years old, but certainly responsible for the dark, deep core of this wine. The third piece, a small fermentation of the original, own-rooted plantings from 1971, brings the elegance and floral lift.

PRODUCTION

In the cellar, over two thirds whole cluster is retained and fermented with a combination of foulage and pigeage before being put to 228L barriques, with thirty percent new barrels, for 19 months before bottling.

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Alcohol

13%

Elevage

19 months - 30% new French oak

Soil Type

Botella clay loam full of chert & shale

Cases Produced

936

The 2019 Pinot Noir Sanford & Benedict is a powerful, brooding wine. The high percentage of stems (75%) undoubtedly adds savory intensity, but it also masks some site character. The 2019 is a gorgeous wine, but it is also austere and not an especially typical expression of this site. I hope to have a chance to taste it in a decade.

94 POINTS - ANTONIO GALLONI, VINOUS

