

# WINEMAKER NOTES

The 2014 Pinot Noir Lotus is pale to medium ruby with an intense, powerful nose; pipe tobacco, warm blackberries, cinnamon stick and nutmeg, salami, cracked peppercorn, potpourri, dusty earth, spiced cranberry sauce, stewed rhubarb and strawberry jam - there are so many layers here, I could keep smelling and naming scents. Medium-bodied and smooth as silk, it transforms in the mouth from saline to orange to rose to warm fruits, building in intensity, with pleasantly chewy tannins and mouthwatering freshness to counter, finishing very long, very spicy and with tons of energy. Wow! It's drinking beautifully right now, but if you can keep your paws off, this will be stunning with a few years of bottle age.

# WINEMAKING

Cases: 23

Appellation: Sta. Rita Hills Varietal composition: 100% Pinot Noir

% Whole cluster: 45%

Barrels | Aging: 25% new French oak | 22

months

and star anise in recurring layers. - Matt Kettman

Alcohol: 14.10%

Finished pH: 3.55 Finished TA: 6.2 g/L

### 2014 VINTAGE

Another year of drought, with intense heat leading into harvest. Despite the hot,dry conditions, the vines produced big yields in fruit. Expect wines with strongfruit characteristics, juiciness, and wonderful accessibility. These are winesdriven by primary red fruit characteristics and a bright acid profile.

#### STA. RITA HILLS AVA

The Sta. Rita Hills AVA is significantly impacted by its proximity to the ocean (10 miles), consistent morning/evening fog, and steady afternoon winds. These cooling trends are not only perfectly suited to growing Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Grenache, and Syrah but also serve to prolong the growing season, allowing for heightened varietal flavor intensity. Additionally, the area's cool climate and vineyards' calcareous rock and sand help produce grapes with natural acidity and flavor balance.

### **ACCOLADES**

95 points - The Wine Advocate The 2014 Pinot Noir Lotus is pale to medium ruby with an intense, powerful nose; pipe tobacco, warm blackberries, cinnamon stick and nutmeg, salami, cracked peppercorn, potpourri, dusty earth, spiced cranberry sauce, stewed rhubarb and strawberry jam - there are so many layers here, I could keep smelling and naming scents. Medium-bodied and smooth as silk, it transforms in the mouth from saline to orange to rose to warm fruits, building in intensity, with pleasantly chewy tannins and mouthwatering freshness to counter, finishing very long, very spicy and with tons of energy. Wow! It's drinking beautifully right now, but if you can keep your paws off, this will be stunning with a few years of bottle age. - Erin Brooks
93 points - The Wine Enthusiast This reserve style of Pinot Noir from Samsara is darker, earthier and denser than the usual style, but the hallmark forest-floor aroma still reigns, along with dried red cherries. Strong cranberry, red-cherry and mulberry flavors show on the sip, but the spice rack is loaded, offering nutmeg, vanilla