



2016 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills

Founded in 1991 by Michael Dragutsky, Cornerstone Cellars is the quintessential Napa Valley mountain and benchland producer of Cabernet Sauvignon. Our winemaking led by Kari Auringer honors Napa Valley's great heritage by crafting intense, elegant and balanced wines that stand among the very best winegrowing estates in the world. Through intellectual rigor, humility, and with the utmost respect for the land, Cornerstone Cellars aims to make wines that truly speak to its exceptional vineyard sites in the most authentic and genuine way possible.



2016 Vintage

With a warm spring and early summer, Santa Barbara County saw another early harvest in 2016, with some of the warmer spots harvesting in late August. We experienced a medium size crop that ripened beautifully into intense, yet balanced wines.

The Appellation

Santa Rita Hills, a small AVA nestled within Santa Barbara County is home to some of California's best-loved Pinot Noirs. The fruit focused core, depth and complexity is attributed to the morning fog, sunny days and cooling coastal breezes. The hillsides are covered with white chalky soils that allow for drainage, but also encourage a hint of minerality in the flavor and texture.

2016 Tasting Notes

Dark garnet in color. Effusive aromas of juicy blackberries, Bing cherries and ripe summer strawberries, with a subtle layer of toasty vanilla lift out of the glass. Your first sip might take you back to a late summer evening when the air was filled with sweet aromas of fruit ripening on the vine and floral notes floating on the soft summer breeze. Your first sip might transport you to a time when you experienced the pure essence of ripe fruit. Juicy and seductive but laced with a balance of earthiness and fresh baked blueberry tart. With each swirl of the glass this complex wine evolves showing more depth and layered nuance. Fresh and ready to play right now, this wine will gain complexity and depth with a little time in the bottle.

2016 Winemaking Notes

Vintage:	2016
Appellation:	100% Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara
Vineyard:	Rita's Crown
Varietals:	100% Pinot Noir, Clone 828
Alcohol:	14.5%
Cooperage:	60% New French oak Barrels, 40% neutral oak
Production:	290 Cases

Notes:

Rita's Crown Vineyard is located on a sunny, southwest-facing hillside, nestled in the heart of prime blocks of Sea Smoke, best known for their robust pinot Noir.