

# 2018 DIERBERG PINOT NOIR DRUM CANYON VINEYARD, STA. RITA HILLS



**95 Points Jeb Dunnuck**

ALCOHOL  
13.1%

AGED  
16 months

OAK  
35% New French

HARVESTED  
September 2018

BOTTLED  
December 2019

CELLAR LIFE  
8-16 years

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## VINTAGE

2018 was a vintage that we hope for every year in our coastal vineyards. Below average winter rain set us up for another year of lower than normal vigor. Spring began cool and temperatures remained moderate throughout the summer. In many ways what makes this vintage remarkable was that its' weather was unremarkable. "Regular" vintages in Sta. Rita Hills are so well suited for excellent Pinot Noir and Chardonnay that the cool temperatures, moderate wind patterns, and lack of heat spells meant concentrated fruit that retained freshness and was filled with a mouth-watering texture. Unlike 2017 when heat spells complicated harvest decisions and in some cases fruit quality with stricter selection process, the only knock on 2018 was its low quantity. It is reminiscent of 2015's concentration but with 2016/2017 elegance.

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## WINEMAKER NOTES

This is the kind of wine that - if one was self conscious - might make you feel bad as a winemaker. It's so good with so little done to it. Sure, we include some stems (about 20%), but otherwise the quality of the fruit does all the work. People congratulate you, they say how much they appreciate its nerve, structure, and depth of flavor; and we sit there smiling all the while knowing our main role was to keep enough oxygen away to make sure it didn't turn to vinegar, add the right oak that improves pleasure but doesn't reveal itself, sanitize everything before bottling, and get it into bottle without breaking too much glass. Voila.

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## TASTING NOTES

A bit of dark fruits with a spice, that is almost like fennel, and earthy notes drive these youthful aromatics. I love the structure that wraps itself around the very finesse driven weight and mid-palate. The wine has sneaky length and should last for some time. Says Jeb Dunnuck, the 2018 Drum Canyon is "Another head-turning effort from this team that will evolve for decades to come."

