

JEB DUNNUCK**93**

2017 Peake Ranch Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills

Moving to the 2017 Pinot Noirs, the largest production cuvée is the 2017 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills, which was destemmed and spent 18 months in 50% new French oak. Black cherries, ground herbs, forest floor, and hints of candied violets all emerge from this medium to full-bodied, supple, nicely textured, balanced effort. It's drinking nicely today yet should improve with a year in bottle and keep for 5-7 years.

An up and coming estate readers need to check out is John and Gillian Wagner's Peake Ranch. Located on the eastern/southern side of the Sta. Rita Hills, they produce a stunning array of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Syrahs. Prices haven't caught up with quality, so these are still screaming values.

- Jeb Dunnuck (10/31/2019)

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