



*AVA:* Carneros  
*Composition:* 100% Pinot Noir  
*Alcohol:* 13.5% by volume  
*TA:* 5.25 g/L  
*pH:* 3.74



# STARMONT

WINERY AND VINEYARDS

2017

## Carneros Pinot Noir

From the time Starmont first appeared on a label in 1989, the name has been recognized for classically styled varietal wines that are expressive and approachable. Now, nearly 30 years later, led by Winemaker Jeff Crawford Starmont is producing some of their best wines ever as part of the Merryvale Family of Wines. Focused on sustainability and making the highest quality wines, the Stanly Ranch Estate Vineyard has been Napa Green Certified since 2007.

### Wine Notes

This is a regional expression of Carneros Pinot Noir sourced from multiple vineyards. In 2017, 100% of the fruit came from sites on the Napa side of Carneros. Ours is a *seleccion masal* Pinot Noir, not meant to express a single clone or vineyard. The goal of this wine is to retain a varietal correctness with a sense of place. We enjoy Carneros Pinot Noir, because although the fruit presents itself readily, there is an undercurrent of 'Pinot funk' and an earthy element that adds complexity both on the nose and the palate. Judicious use of new oak, just 15%, adds both to the nose and the texture of the wine, but still allows the fruit to be front and center. Dark garnet in color, the 2017 displays black cherry, ripe plum and earthy notes enhanced by toasty oak. Restrained acidity, along with moderate weight and density, gives this wine outstanding balance and structure.

### Winemaking

The fruit was handpicked then carefully sorted upon arrival at the winery. The wine underwent both native and inoculated fermentation, and native malolactic fermentation, and was fermented using both open and closed top tanks. The wine was barrel aged for 11 months in 15% new French oak with 8 months on primary lees before being racked and blended then back to barrel for 3 more months on light lees. The wine was racked once more for bottling and bottled unfined.