

DIERBERG

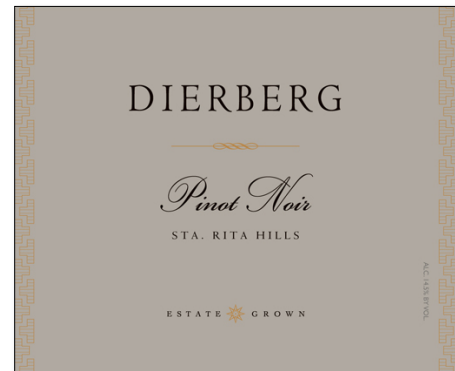
Jim and Mary Dierberg are no newcomers to wine. Since 1974, they've owned one of America's oldest wineries, Hermannhof, located in their home state of Missouri. Developing an initial passion for wine during their early trips to Germany during the 1960s, the couple discovered that an old winery in Hermann, Missouri - founded in 1852 - was for sale, and they bought it.



The wines at Hermannhof are good, but the Missouri climate is not conducive to growing the European varietals that have made France and California famous, and so, it was only a matter of time before the couple sought a new winemaking perspective. In 1996, they purchased Star Lane. After consultation with renowned Central Coast grower Dale Hampton and soil scientist Paul Skinner, the Dierbergs realized that the land was best suited to growing Cabernet and its related varietals.

Starting with 100 acres in 1996, they later bought a cooler vineyard site better suited to Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, a bit farther north in Santa Maria. In January of 2004 they added a new property in the Santa Rita Hills, also suitable for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, and called these two vineyards, fittingly, Dierberg. Practicing organic viticulture, the winemaking couple are constructing their dream winery on the Star Lane property. It's dug into the hillside for efficient use of energy and will host some 26,000 square feet of caves for barrel aging.

PINOT NOIR "SANTA RITA HILLS"



Varietal/Blend: 100% Pinot Noir

Farming: sustainable

Soil: alluvial deposits / sandy Loam

Ave Year Vines Planted: 2003

Harvest Technique: harvested by soil type, across several different blocks, rather than by discreet clonal selections / in Late Aug. to Early Sept.

Fermentation: partially destemmed / extended maceration / barreled-down to a mix of new and used French oak barrels

Aging: 20% new French oak for 15 months in 2013 / bottled in December 2014

Alcohol: 14.1%

Yeast: natural

Fined: none

Filtered: light

Our newest vineyard is located on the eastern edge of the acclaimed Santa Rita Hills appellation. The Drum Canyon Vineyard was planted in 2005 to take advantage of the hillside characteristics, southern exposure and the extreme maritime influence of the appellation. The combination of clones, and soils at the vineyard have allowed us to craft wines of complexity and character. The Dierberg Drum Canyon Vineyard is characterized by fog shrouded mornings, which are followed by maritime breezes and sun-filled days.

Country: California

Region: Santa Rita Hills

Vineyard: Dierberg "Drum Canyon"