

# Thorne

## *Rio Vista Vineyard*

STA. RITA HILLS

### **Fact Sheet**

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### **Overview:**

The Rio Vista ranch was originally settled in the late 1800's and primarily used for cattle grazing and farming. Even in those early days, the ranchers must've known that this was a prime location for wine grapes, as oral history tells of a vineyard in what is now Block 7 of the Rio Vista Vineyard. The Thorne family has farmed the land for over fifty years, and in 2000 decided to plant the first 26 acres of Pinot Noir. Fruit from the first vintage in 2003 was quickly acquired by the areas finest winemakers, including those of Brewer-Clifton, Drew, Flying Goat Cellars, Hitching Post, Ken Brown, Koehler, Tantara, Fess Parker, and Rusack. With the bountiful and elegant 2005 vintage, the Thorne's decided to create their own estate grown wine. The inaugural 2005 Thorne Pinot Noir was released in October, 2007, and wines under the Thorne label have continued in subsequent vintages.

### **Rio Vista Vineyard**

The vineyard is the eastern-most vineyard in the acclaimed Sta. Rita Hills AVA (American Viticultural Appellation). Two vineyards were planted in 2000 and encompass 26 acres of Pinot Noir. A third 38 acre vineyard was planted in 2006, and enjoyed its first harvest in 2009. All three vineyards are planted solely to Pinot Noir and include clones 2A, 667, 777, 115, 828, Pommard and Calera. The vineyards are farmed and managed by John Belfy of Buona Terra Farming.

### **Thorne Wine**

Thorne Pinot Noir is an estate grown wine, made under the supervision of consulting winemaker Ken Brown.

The initial 2005 release was a blend of clones 2A, 115 and 777. Subsequent vintages have also included the 667, Pommard and Calera clones. Case production has ranged from 350 to 840 cases.