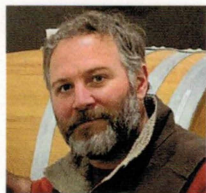


Top 100 Wineries

CALIFORNIA | CENTRAL COAST

Deovlet

With his close examinations of the Sta. Rita Hills and Happy Canyon, Deovlet is one of the great interpreters of Santa Barbara County.



RYAN DEOVLET



RYAN DEOVLET HAS EARNED HIS KEEP AS AN itinerant vinegrower and winemaker for most of his career, starting in 2003 as an intern at Willing Workers on Organic Farms, a program that sent him to Australia's Yarra and Hunter Valleys, then New Zealand's Central Otago and Hawkes Bay. Closer to home, he settled in the Central Coast, working with Stephen Ross Dooley at Red Car in Santa Barbara County. One day in 2008 he sat down with vineyard legend Richard Sanford, hoping to convince Sanford to sell him an allocation from La Encantada, and Deovlet Wines was underway. He now works with two more vineyards in the Sta. Rita Hills. Wherever he draws from, Deovlet is usually the first to pick. In the cellar, he and assistant winemaker Grace Kegel have designed a pinot-noir winemaking strategy using gentle punchdowns and gentler pumpovers ("painting the cap," as he puts it), hoping to keep berries whole longer, for a more "oval" mouthfeel. Deovlet's wines ripple with acidity, the textures lucid and precise. —P.J.C.

2020 Sta. Rita Hills Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$60, 94 points) This is Deovlet's sixth vintage from Sanford & Benedict, and the first time you dip your nose in the glass you can feel its build, smell its dusty, old-vine accents and its generous, fiercely red fruit. Oak frames the aromas as the flavors emerge, youthful and savory, forest and sea spray in a pithy strawberry weave of fruit. It's generous and lifted, with a lean bolt of acidity cutting through the savor. Cellar this to let the flavors unfold.

2020 Sta. Rita Hills La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Blanc (\$35, 94 points) From a block tucked into the mesa, these pinot blanc vines are protected from the sun until late morning. Their slow ripening preserves a remarkable nerve and mineral tension in the wine. Deovlet ferments this cool, suppresses malolactic, then ages it in sandstone vessels, as well as oak and steel. It's an electric white with lifted scents of citrus and white flower petals, a whiff of peach, racing into a thrillingly tense, chalk-driven finish.

2020 Sta. Rita Hills La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$60, 93 points) Sleek and spicy, this surrounds dark plum scents with smoke, mace and anise, all assembling on the palate with surprising vibrancy. The wine's brightness seems to course through the chewy, succulent extract, achieving a kind of silky textural depth with pulsating acidity.

FOUNDED:
2008

WINEMAKER:
Ryan Deovlet

OWNERS:
Ryan and Shauna Deovlet

ACRES OWNED:
None

ANNUAL PRODUCTION:
2,500 cases