

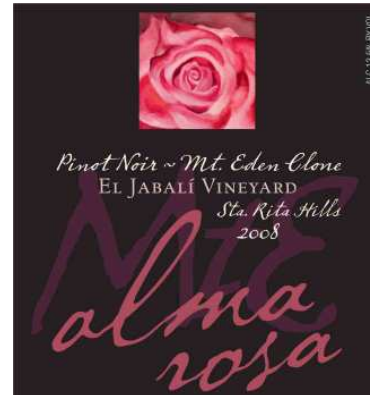
**Robert Parker**  
**August 2010**

*Alma Rosa is the brainchild of Richard Sanford, an early visionary and viticultural pioneer from the Santa Rita Hills. Richard Sanford's five Pinot Noirs are evidence of some of the challenges this varietal confronted in 2008. These wines are not as rich and concentrated as several previous vintages, but they are well-made and far more evolved and ready to drink which is certainly an advantage.*

**2008 Alma Rosa Pinot Noir, Mt. Eden Clone, El Jabalí Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills**

Rating: 90 points

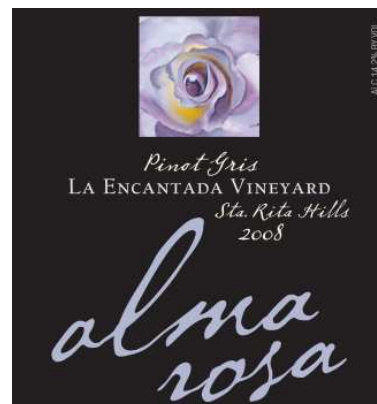
My favorite of the group is the 2008 Pinot Noir El Jabalí Vineyard, planted from the well-known Mt. Eden Clone of Pinot Noir. The richest of the group, but also the most complex, with its unmistakable minerality and flowery red currants and raspberries, this medium to full-bodied wine has a delicacy and finesse not too dissimilar from a premier cru from Burgundy's village of Chambolle-Musigny.



**2008 Alma Rosa Pinot Gris La Encantada Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills**

Rating: 90 points

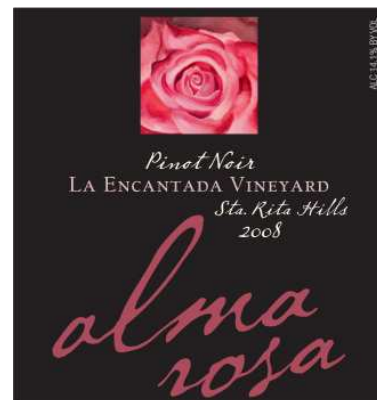
The real star is the 2008 Pinot Gris La Encantada Vineyard. Attractive honey and apple notes intermixed with white peach are enticing in this nicely textured, medium-bodied, dry, pure, personality-filled white. It should drink well for up to a year or more.



**2008 Alma Rosa Pinot Noir La Encantada Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills**

Rating: 89 points

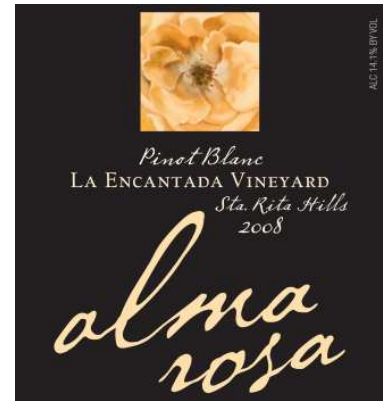
The 2008 Pinot Noir La Encantada Vineyard has elegant sweet cherry and strawberry notes, some of the firmer tannins of these five Pinot Noirs, medium body, and good structure and purity. It should drink nicely for 3-4 years, perhaps even longer.



**2008 Alma Rosa Pinot Blanc La Encantada Vineyard,  
Sta. Rita Hills**

Rating: 89 points

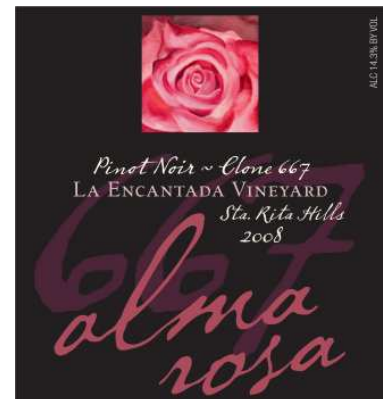
The white wines include the deliciously fresh, crisp, apple and citrus blossom flavored, medium-bodied, richly fruity 2008 Pinot Blanc La Encantada Vineyard. Super food-friendly and an ideal aperitif wine, this should be drunk over the next year.



**2008 Alma Rosa Pinot Noir, Clone 667, La Encantada  
Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills**

Rating: 88 Points

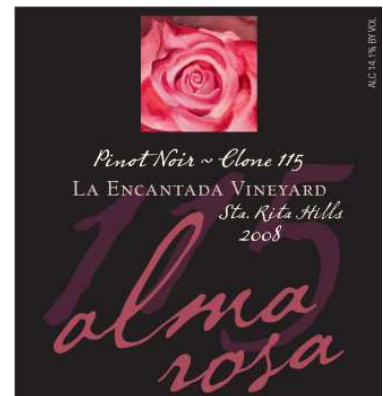
The Dijon Clone 667 is a stablemate of Clone 115 which came on the market shortly after 115 and is increasingly being planted. The 2008 Pinot Noir Clone 667 displays sweet cherries as well as plenty of barnyard, earth, and spice notes. The wine has good texture, but again, the vintage character for Pinot Noir in the Santa Barbara/Santa Rita Hills area seems to be one of spice, earth, and autumnal notes at the expense of ripe fruit and depth.



**2008 Pinot Noir, Clone 115, La Encantada Vineyard,  
Sta. Rita Hills**

Rating: 87 points

The least impressive wine, the 2008 Pinot Noir Clone 115 La Encantada Vineyard, has delicate strawberry and sweet and sour cherry notes. Somewhat diluted, lacking concentration and texture, the wine is medium-bodied, with a short finish, but a pleasant, front end-loaded personality.



**2008 Alma Rosa Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills**

Rating: 87 Points

The other four wines are showing better, including the generic 2008 Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills. Strawberries, pomegranates, and tart cherries, along with some damp earth and spice box, make an appearance in this medium-bodied, fully mature Pinot, which is best drunk over the next 2-3 years.

