

THE
RESERVE
Collection

te Pā

Taylor River Pinot Noir 2019

Winemaker's technical and tasting notes



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Variety

100% Pinot Noir

Vineyards

Taylor River Vineyard, Omaka, Marlborough.

Wine analysis

Alc – 13.5 %

pH – 3.55

T.A – 5.8 g/L

R.S – < 1 g/L

Vineyard

The Taylor River Vineyard is situated alongside the Taylor River shingle fan. The soils consist of loams, silts, clays and river gravels. The combination of clay and free draining soils makes this vineyard ideally suited for premium Pinot Noir.

Mature low cropping clone 115 was used for this Reserve wine.

Winemaking

The fruit was handpicked from block 9 in the Taylor River Vineyard, on the 16th March 2019.

The block was fermented in three open top fermenters with different proportions of whole bunches in each tank (ranging from 0-30%).

The three tanks were basket pressed to barrel where they underwent natural malolactic fermentation in spring.

A selection of the six best barrels was made for the 2019 te Pā Reserve Pinot Noir. These were racked to tank after 11 months in oak. Then left to settle in tank for a further three months before being racked again and bottled without fining or filtration. A “less is more” approach was taken to the winemaking.

The final blend consisted of 22% whole bunch and 33% new oak.

Tasting note

This Pinot Noir possesses a complex and attractive spectrum of aromas of red fruits, liquorice, violets, and fresh tobacco.

The palate displays classic Pinot Noir characters of cherry and cranberry, with layers of five spice, cinnamon, and aniseed.

The new oak provides some subtle coffee and mocha notes. The primary fruit is enveloped by fine, chalky tannins.

Vintage summary

With all of the hallmarks of an outstanding vintage, the 2018/2019 growing season saw a warm, dry summer, with very little rainfall in Marlborough between late December 2018 and mid-March 2019.

Crops (and berries) were small due to some unsettled weather at flowering, but the quality was exceptional, with no disease pressure throughout the entire growing season. The 2019 wines are ripe, generous, and concentrated.

Awards & Accolades

- 96 Points, 5 Stars, Sam Kim, Wine Orbit
- 95 Points, Outstanding, Cameron Douglas (MS)
- 92 Points, Burghound, 2020
- 91 Points, James Suckling, 2020
- Gold Medal, New Zealand International Wine Show, 2020