

DECIBEL

"PACIFIC PASSENGER"

PINOT NOIR

2020

Viticulture:

Martinborough sits in a perfect Pinot Noir pocket on the lower north island. To the west of Martinborough is the Rimutaka Mountain ranges, protecting the region from the westerly rains. To the southeast lies the Aorangi Range and due east are the foothills leading up the coast of the North Island. There is, however, some exposure to the cold southerlies coming up through Palliser Bay in the spring that limit flowering and result in low yielding vines producing fruit of high intensity. This single vineyard wine was produced from a block with a unique clay soil structure over top of free draining former river bed. The vineyard is situated just south of the Martinborough town along Lake Ferry Road. This particular wine was produced from Dijon Clone 115, as well as Clone 5 half of which are planted on their own rootstock. The vineyard is run conventionally and is certified sustainable owned by Nga Waka Winery

Vinification:

The grapes were picked in one day as the COVID-19 pandemic was accelerating through the world in mid March 2020. The fruit was then trucked up to Hawke's Bay for vinification. Two vats were used, cold soaked for 5 days before they slowly began to warm up and allowed to ferment wild. As it turned out, both ferments completed MLF on skins. They were then pressed gently in a stainless steel basket press. The wine settled in tank and then put to barrel with no Sulphur additions. The barrels were kept at 10 degrees, monitored carefully, and topped. In late spring a reasonable amount of SO₂ (50 ppm) was added to each barrel. In February the wines were racked off lees and blended in tank where they received a very small addition of SO₂. The wine was then aged in bottle for 14 months before its release in May 2022.

Tasting Notes:

Red garnet in colour, reflecting the warm and dry vintage of 2020. The nose is forward with dark, grainy plum, raspberries and cherry notes. Savoury notes persist with hints of dried herbs and cedar. The front palate is lively and though there are lush, creamy notes through the palate, the wine remains perky and fresh throughout. The finish is a bit spicy with a mid-plate lift and a lingering, soft tannins with a persistent heat through the finish. This wine will hit it's stride in the next 2 years and age beautifully for the next 10-15 years under screw-cap.

