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Westhaven Pinot Noir 2021

Winemaker's technical and tasting notes



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Variety

100% Pinot Noir

Vineyards

Westhaven Vineyard, Awatere Valley, Marlborough.

Wine analysis

Alc – 14.0%

pH – 3.65

T.A – 4.6 g/L

R.S – < 1 g/L

Vineyard

The Westhaven Vineyard is situated in the Dashwood Pass near the entrance to the Awatere Valley. The soils of this north facing slope consist of rich clays. This low cropping vineyard is pruned to two canes and is planted in the four classic Dijon clones 115, 114, 667 and 777.

Winemaking

This wine is a six-barrel selection of the best barrels out of the premium hand-picked batches from the Westhaven Vineyard.

Two small batches of Westhaven Pinot Noir stood out in 2021. One was clone 667 fermented with 30% whole bunches, and the other was 777 fruit with 15% whole bunch. The blend was an even mix of the two batches – to give 22%, whole bunch and two new barrels were picked to give 33% new oak.

The wine was matured for 15 months in barrel, before being racked to tank, settled, and bottled without fining or filtration.

Tasting note

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

The palate displays classic Pinot Noir characters of cherry, cola, 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

2021 was a difficult season where good viticultural management was essential. The adaption of the appropriate practices due to the early identification of the cooler season, resulted in some very good fruit.

The combination of dropping crop in a naturally lower yielding season, along with an increase in leaf plucking and other canopy management techniques allowed us to harvest our fruit earlier than normal and in good condition.

Awards & Reviews

- 96 Points, 5 Stars, Sam Kim, Wine Orbit Wine Reviews
- 95 Points, Candice Chow for Raymond Chan Wine Reviews
- 95 Points, Outstanding, Cameron Douglas Master Sommelier
- 93 Points, Decanter Magazine Pinot Noir Tasting Panel
- 93 Points, Stephen Wong MW, The Real Review
- 92+ Points, Wine Advocate
- 4 Stars, Cuisine Magazine Pinot Noir Tasting Panel
- 91 Points, Rebecca Gibb MW, Vinous