

QUARTZ REEF

CENTRAL OTAGO

BENDIGO PINOT NOIR 2023



Ripe red berry fruits, spice, dried herbs, fresh dried cherry, red plum, and bracken. Notes of violet, black tea, blackberry, and dark chocolate. Polished tannins and a backbone of acidity to frame the fruit alongside mineral and savoury qualities showcasing depth. Fine, silky tannins. Immediately enjoyable with long-term cellaring potential.

VINEYARD

This wine is from our BioGro certified organic and Demeter certified biodynamic estate vineyard located in the Bendigo sub-region of Central Otago. The vineyard was planted in 1998 after careful site selection. The soils on the beautiful north facing slope are Waenga fine sandy loam and Letts steepland with an elevation of 217 – 264 metres, on 44.55° south. Clones: 10/5, 5, 115, 667, 777 & Abel. 5000 vines per hectare.

VINTAGE

The growing season was a real “box of chocolates” as we experienced variable weather and climactic conditions as well as variable flowering and fruit set. Budburst began on September 23rd. We experienced long slow flowering starting on November 28th lasting for three weeks. From the beginning of January through to late February the temperature really heated up with days topping 35 degrees Celsius in Bendigo. First pick for the sparkling wine was on the 24th of February. The majority of our fruit was harvested by the end of March with our Pinot Noir picked on March 30th and the Pinot Gris a little later. Reflecting on a good year and great team we look forward to the coming winter to reset for another trip around the sun.

WINEMAKING

Hand-picked on the 30th March 2023. Each clone was small batch vinified with a small percentage of 6% whole cluster per ferment. Cold Soaked for up to 7 days before indigenous yeast fermentation kicked in. Gentle plunging each day, followed by post maceration of up to 9 days to ensure optimum fruit and tannin balance. Total time on skin; 24 days. Drained directly into selected French oak barriques 21% new, 28% 1 year old, 51% 2 years and older. where the wine aged for 12 months during which malolactic fermentation occurred naturally.

TECHNICAL

TA: 5.2g/L, Alcohol: 14.0% RS: less than 1.0g/L

Bottling Date: September 2024

Ageing Potential: 6 – 9+ years

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PREVIOUS REVIEWS

PIONOT NOIR 2021: WALL STREET JOURNAL

OENOFIL / "5 Fantastic Pinot Noirs You Don't Know (but Should)"

By Lettie Teague

Jan 5th 2024

"A few other Pinot Noirs I purchased were from New Zealand, most notably Central Otago. I realize that New Zealand Pinot is not exactly obscure, but New Zealand's blockbuster variety, Sauvignon Blanc, makes it seem so. Some regard Central Otago, on the country's South Island, as one of the best locations for planting Pinot, and the Central Otago Pinots I tasted were all pretty well made. But the 2021 Quartz Reef Central Otago Bendigo Pinot Noir was the TRUE STAR."

PINOT NOIR 2020:

98 points: *"A complex pinot sitting in the meaty/forest floor spectrum with hints of red plums. It has sweet vanilla oak, silky smooth tannins and plenty of acid."* By Winestate Magazine (Jul/Aug 2022)

95 points: *"Deep, ruby-red with dark purple hues, lighter on edge. This has an enticing bouquet with black raspberries and cherries melded with thyme and sweet spice. Medium-full bodied, nuances of dark cherries, raspberries have a mineral edge, interweave thyme, sweet vanilla, star anise, black pepper and cloves. The fruit has excellent ripeness with concentration, showing multi layers and dimensions. Fine-grained, silky, tight-knitted tannins provide structure and grip. Lacy acid thread carries the core of fruit and sweet spice to a lingering, broody finish. This black-fruited Pinot Noir has structure and silky mouthfeel filled with delicate spice and mineral elements. Match with hare and lamb rack over the next 8+ years. Handpicked from Estate vineyard in Bendigo, fermented in small batches with a small percentage of whole clusters, cold-soaked for up to 7 days, indigenous yeast fermented to 14% alc, post maceration, total time on skins 19-24 days. Aged 12 months in French oak barriques, 28% new oak. Underwent wild MLF."* By Candice Chow, Raymond Chan Wine Reviews (Jun 2022)

Classic and 5 Stars: *"Certified organic and biodynamic, the classy 2020 vintage (5*) was estate-grown at Bendigo, hand-picked and matured in French oak barriques. Full, bright ruby, it has a fragrant, complex bouquet. Mouthfilling, it is savoury and well-structured, with deep cherry, plum and spice flavours, seasoned with nutty oak, ripe tannins and a finely balanced, lingering finish. A very ageworthy wine, it's well worth cellaring to 2025."* By Michael Cooper (May 2022)

PINOT NOIR 2019:

93 points: *"All from the estate vineyard in Bendigo, the 2019 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir features intricate shadings of sous-bois, herbal nuances, hints of mocha and ripe, black-cherry fruit. Medium to full-bodied—remember that Bendigo is one of the warmest subregions in Central Otago—supple and expansive in the mouth, this bold, rich example of Pinot Noir fits the age-worthy mold that has characterized owner Rudi Bauer's wines for three decades."* By Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate (Jun 2020)