

# QUARTZ REEF

CENTRAL OTAGO

## ROYAL SERIES "BILLIE JEAN" PINOT NOIR 2019



*Billie Jean 2011 – 2018:*



Deep in colour with dark cherry, plum and floral aromas. Exceptional depth and complexity with cherry, plum and sweet spice on the palate. Full-bodied with a finely textured finish.

### BACKGROUND

Every year our Pinot Noir grapes are hand harvested in small parcels from within our Bendigo Estate Vineyard and vinified as single ferments. Selected from the most eastern block of the vineyard, the first block to see the sun. Uniquely close planted at 8,000 vines per hectare and affectionately known as the 'royal block' by our team. "Billie Jean" is the third ferment to be released from block 12.

### VINEYARD

From our Bendigo Estate vineyard which is BioGro certified organic and Demeter certified biodynamic; on grafted pinot noir clones, planted in 1998. The soils on the beautiful north facing slope are Waenga fine sandy loam and Letts steepland with an elevation from 217 – 264 metres, on 44.55° south.

### VINTAGE

The season started with mild temperatures throughout Spring, an earlier than usual budburst and rainfall in late Nov/early Dec providing good levels of moisture. We were challenged with two severe cold fronts during budburst and flowering which despite frost fighting efforts resulted in a smaller crop. Warm and settled weather followed producing overall a hotter than usual growing season. With veraison starting in the last week of January, we began (to expect) yet another early harvest. The 2019 vintage impression is extremely good quality.

### WINEMAKING

Hand-picked on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. Cold soaked for 4 days before indigenous yeast fermentation kicked in with 16% whole bunch. Gentle hand plunging throughout ferment, followed by post-fermentation maceration of 9 days to ensure optimum fruit and tannin balance. Total time on skin; 26 days. Drained directly into selected French oak barriques (100% one year old) where the wine aged for 14 months during which wild malolactic fermentation occurs.

### TECHNICAL

pH: 3.51, Total Acidity: 5.9 g/L, Alcohol: 14.0%  
Bottling Date: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
Ageing Potential: 7 – 10 years  
Limited Release: Only 500 bottles produced



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### IN MEMORY OF BILLIE JEAN: 2011 – 2018:

Most beloved four-legged family member of Rudi and Suellen who sadly passed away in 2018, before her time.

"Billie Jean" Bauer was quite the fur princess. She possessed an amusing and often hectic personality (despite her wee stature) and was a treasured member of the Quartz Reef team both at the winery and vineyard causing mayhem and laughter when most needed. She was most definitely 'top dog'.

To honour our princess "Billie Jean", we felt it fitting to name the next vintage in our 'Royal' series – "Billie Jean" Pinot Noir 2019, as she was held in such royal regard and what better way to honour her memory.

### RECENT REVIEW:

**95 points and 5 Stars:** *"A selection of the best grapes from the best vintages, in this case the generally excellent 2019. It's a fine, seamless wine with floral, violet, dark cherry, plum, five-spice and roast chestnut supported by powdery tannins."* By Bob Campbell MW (March 2022)

**Excellent to Outstanding:** *"A sense of volume, bonfire notes, perfume, dark fruits, wisps of balsamic. Rich in the mouth, dark berries, savoury nuances, thyme, spicy elements. Wonderful structural backbone, the drying tannins work superbly with the depth of fruit, that richness neatly in balance. Built for the future, deceptive power, a long, cool carry. The flavours hang in the mouth."* By Mark Henderson, Otago Daily Times (OCT 2022)

**94 Points** *"A beautiful nose of sliced strawberries, hibiscus tea, rose, violet, wet stone, bark, cumin seed and fresh thyme. Medium-bodied with slightly firm tannins. Fresh and pretty with floral character coloring the red berries that envelope the palate through a subtle but long finish. Only 500 Bottles. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold. Screw cap."* James Suckling (OCT 2022)

### **97 Points** Outstanding

*"I suggest you taste this wine over 2 days - it begins to show its true potential after around 24 hours open. Aromas and flavours of dark cherry and dried raspberry, a spiced plum flesh and spices of the forest and barrel. There's a fine savoury quality and core earth and mineral statement. The texture on the palate is what I notice first with coarse silk tannins and a saline refreshing acid line, barrel spice and earth smoke layer in complexity. A delicious and engaging example with a core pinosity and loud heartbeat for the variety. A voice of Bendigo and Otago captured. Best drinking from late 2024 through 2030+."* By Cameron Douglas MS (Sept 2022)

Only 500 bottles produced - be quick!