

QUARTZ REEF

BENDIGO ESTATE

“FRANZ FERDINAND” PINOT NOIR 2015



96 POINTS

“A selection from the eastern section of the vineyard, this has an elegant, powerful feel with bright, pure red-cherry aromas and flavors, delivered with a scintillatingly fine-boned tannin structure. Long, pure and immaculately fresh pinot.”

Review from James Suckling,
October 2018

Deep in colour with intense berry aromatics and a hint of rose. Exceptional body with balanced acidity and silky tannins. Lively on the palate with rich plum, cherry and subtle spice notes.

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. Franz Ferdinand is the first ferment to be released from block 12. A very special release by Rudi Bauer.

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

A cooler than normal spring was replaced with a dry November and extremely warm December just in time to provide the perfect window for the critical flowering period. Dry warm conditions continued through into February reducing the soil moisture significantly however in late summer, we experienced above-average rainfall and a cold snap. After unexpected snowfalls in mid-April, harvesting was fasttracked. Overall fruit quality was excellent with slightly lower acid and sugar levels than normal.

WINEMAKING

Hand-picked on the 26th March. Cold soaked for 5 days before indigenous yeast fermentation kicked in. Gentle hand plunging throughout ferment, followed by post-fermentation maceration of 9 days to ensure optimum fruit and tannin balance. Total time on skin; 25 days. Drained directly into selected French oak barriques (100% two years old) where the wine aged for 15 months during which wild malolactic fermentation occurs. Bottled 24th June 2016, without fining and filtration. The winemaking was very much in keeping with the traditional practices of the Old World. Winemaker, Rudi Bauer, has combined these techniques, and his own personal understanding, to create this wine.

TECHNICAL

pH: 3.65, TA: 5.4g/l, Alc: 14.0%, Clone: 115
Bottling Date: 24th June 2016
Ageing Potential: 7 – 10 years
Limited Release: Only 780 bottles produced

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REVIEWS

95
POINTS

95/100: “Generous but elegant with ripe, sweet berry fruits and some red cherry focus. There’s a bit of sour cherry, too. Lovely structure. Very fine-grained and delicious. Layered.” By Jamie Goode, www.wineanorak.com (Feb 2019)

96
POINTS

96/100: “A selection from the eastern section of the vineyard, this has an elegant, powerful feel with bright, pure red-cherry aromas and flavors, delivered with a scintillatingly fine-boned tannin structure. Long, pure and immaculately fresh pinot.” By James Suckling, jamesuckling.com (Oct 2018)

95
POINTS

95/100: “Very beautiful perfume, fragrant with floral rose characters, red cherry, faint brown spices, touch of cedar. Deeply flavoured, succulent palate with ripe cherry, pomegranate juice and a lick of amaro. The finish builds into a light pucker. It’s effortless and very beautiful..” By Mike Bennie, WineFront (Sep 2018)



5 Stars: “The weighty, savoury 2015 vintage was selected from the most eastern block of the estate vineyard - the first to catch the morning sun - and barrel-matured for 15 months. Ruby hued, with a fragrant, spicy, nutty bouquet, it is sturdy and vigorous, with rich, ripe, plummy, spicy flavours, revealing impressive complexity, fine-grained tannins and a very harmonious, persistent finish. Best drinking 2020+.”

By Michael Cooper, New Zealand Wines (Jul 2018)

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POINTS



96/100 and 5 Stars: “Made from a selection of grapes from the easterly section of Quartz Reef’s hillside Bendigo vineyard. Silken-textured pinot noir in a rather restrained and elegant style that seems to be more accessible and suppler than the Bendigo Estate label. A seductive wine” By Bob Campbell, The Real Review (May 2018)

94
POINTS

94/100: “This full-bodied Pinot Noir offers raspberries and red plums, herb and bracken notes, a round, silky mouthfeel and a long, fine finish. The interplay between fruit and savory is especially notable and intricate, and the length is compelling.” By Joe Czerwinski - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate (Mar 2018)

