



SINGLE VINEYARD PIPECLAY TERRACE

Pinot Noir 2017



Bannockburn, Central Otago, New Zealand

Alc. 13.6% pH 3.78 T/A 5.0g/L

Aging: 14 months in French oak (25% new)

Cellaring Potential: 12-15 years

OUR STORY

Established in 1992 at the base of the mountain for which the winery is named, Mt Difficulty was among the first to plant vineyards in Bannockburn and realize the sub-region's potential for world-class Pinot Noirs. Sourcing fruit from 187 acres of ideally-sited vineyards, our winemaking philosophy stresses minimal intervention and ethical viticulture to produce wines that express their personality and reflect their unique home.

VINEYARDS

One of our four original vineyards along Felton Road in Bannockburn, Pipeclay Terrace vineyard is made up of coarse, drought-prone Bannockburn soils and impervious, heavy-clay Scotland Point soils. The fruit that contributed to this Pinot Noir comes from vines planted in 1996.

VINTAGE NOTES

2017 ended with an average amount of heat, even though the season had a distinctly cool bend to it. A very warm, wet spring kicked off the growing season in style with very early bud-burst. Just as we were entering into flowering, the weather deteriorated with very cool weather right through late December. This impacted flowering with lower than average yields. We began harvesting April 8, and ended April 15.

WINEMAKING

There were two components in this wine, both were fully destemmed and underwent a period of 10 days pre-fermentation maceration. Fermentation took 7 days, after which the wine sat on skins for a further 7 days until it tasted in balance. The wine was punched down every other day during pre-fermentation; once per day during fermentation and once to twice during post maceration. After pressing the wine was settled overnight and racked to barrel where it stayed for 15 months. In the spring the wine underwent malolactic fermentation and was racked out of barrel the following winter. It was filtered but not fined, and bottled in December 2018.

"Pipeclay Terrace Pinot Noir is hand-crafted in very limited quantities and only released in outstanding vintages. The 2017 vintage opens with aromas of vibrant dark cherry and raspberry notes, whilst lift is provided by violet and red rose floral elements. Supple, dense, deep blackberry with a touch of earthiness grounds the entry of the wine. The wine flows with lively dark toned berry and cherry notes through the palate. An excellent volume of fine tannin is enveloped by the dark-toned fruit, giving the wine a plush, long-lasting finish.

—Matt Dicey, Winemaker