

PINOT ROUGE

By Akarua

Pinot Rouge 2020

REGION

Region: Central Otago

Sub Region: Bannockburn

VINEYARDS

Cairnmuir Vineyard

Lakeview 47%, Clutha 9%, Cairnmuir

Rise 44%

Clones: 777, 5, 6

Aspect: West-sloping glacial terraces over three levels

Row orientation: east/west

Soil: weakly structured light alluvial soils overlaying schist rock

Elevation: 270m

Vine age: 24 years

Trellis system & pruning:

VSP, spur

VINTAGE

Growing conditions: Higher winds and cooler temperatures through Oct to early January affected flowering and fruit set, leading to variation in ripening across the estate and lower natural yields. Summer arrived briefly in February and helped lift the seasons growing degree days (GDD) and earlier disease concerns were alleviated by the third driest March seen since 1985 (only 6mm fell). Our fruit arrived to the winery from March the 12th until April the 28th in excellent condition. Some similarities to the growing season of 2017 have been noted, spurring discussion amongst the team of another year of exceptional, award-winning wines!

Grower Degree Days: 952

Rainfall: 289 ml Oct-April

VINIFICATION

Whole bunch fermentation: 15%

Fermentation vessel: stainless steel

Pre-ferment maceration: 5 days

Yeast: wild

Post-ferment maceration: 5 days

Oak treatment: none

Unfined, vegan

TASTING NOTE

Heady perfume of wild raspberries, crunchy red cherries, crushed rose petals, dried herbs and fresh spices. The palate is densely juicy and framed with gentle skin tannins. Bright, easy and flowing with stony mineral finish. Try it slightly chilled!

Winemaker's Notes:

"This is our third release of Pinot Rouge, an early bottling in a traditional 'nouveau' style. A transparent style, it is a pleasure to see the terroir of all three terraces of our beloved home block on Cairnmuir Rd, without the overlay of oak ageing. This vintage is more intensely herbaceous, with flowering wild thyme top notes amongst the perfume of roses and jasmine.

We like to enjoy it at 'cellar temp' – about 12C shows off the juiciness of this wine perfectly."

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Viticulturist: Mark Naismith

Winemaker: Josh Lee

Bottled: 5th August 2020

Brix at Harvest: 22.5-23.5

Date of Harvest: 17-22 April

Alcohol: 14%

PH: 3.89

Titrateable Acidity: 4.6

REVIEWS

"A super-pretty nose of raspberries and red cherries, this is a bright, juicy, highly drinkable wine. You could easily drink a bottle 'by accident'."

James Halliday Feb 2019

"Very fresh, very bright... Great acid line, lush vibrant finish."

Cameron Douglas MS June 2018

