

Hawkshead Central Otago Pinot Noir 2019

The Story

Today Hawkshead is a 'Single Estate' Vineyard in the Gibbston Valley on State Highway 6, 25 km east of Queenstown as the valley gently falls to the Kawarau Gorge. Located on the 45th Latitude the Hawkshead Vineyard enjoys a near continental climate. Warm days and cool nights evoke memories of Burgundy and our grapes, on the north-facing slopes benefit from all year sunshine. A long dry autumn, accompanied by warm daylight temperatures, ensures slow ripening and intense flavour development for our high-quality fruit. Hawkshead specialises in growing Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris grapes and is recognised for producing award winning wines in New Zealand and overseas.

The Vineyard

Bannockburn on the southern banks of the Kawarau near Cromwell is a very warm, dry district where grapes ripen early on sandy, silty loam soils. The altitude here ranges from 220 to 370 metres in an area known by miners as "the Heart of the Desert".

Winemaking

Active and careful vineyard management is vital for growing quality grapes. Good grapes make good wine, and 2019 vintage was no exception. Hand-harvested and selected late April at an average of 23.9 Brix. Spent, on average 26 days on skins, plunged once per day. Pressed at dryness and settled for two days before being racked to barrel. Malolactic 100% went through early and aged in French Oak barrels for tens months. (15.5% new oak) The wine was then lightly filtered for clarification. The wine could show a slight natural deposit. Drinking beautifully now, and can be cellared for 5 - 7 years.

Tasting Note

The 2019 Central Otago Pinot Noir has an uplifting bouquet of sweet violet, a touch of spicy wild thyme and layers of fragrant red currants, raspberries and black cherries. These aromas flow into the vibrant palate. Finely grained tannins and bright acidity are beautifully balanced and together with the ambrosial aromas deliver a joyful yet sophisticated wine with a sleek mouthfeel and lingering length. This Pinot Noir is a great example of a young wine ready to drink now, but with the potential to grow into an elegant wine, representing the stunning 2019 vintage.



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THE WINE CAVE
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Alcohol Percentage	12.5 %
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	6.3 g/L
Aging Potential	7 + years



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