

## Ceres Bannockburn Black Rabbit Vineyard Pinot Noir 2016

### The Story

In 1992, Robin settled in Central Otago and sowed the seeds for Mt Difficulty. The Diceys are New Zealand winemaking pioneers. Mt Difficulty is their foundation, CERES is their legacy. CERES fruit comes from three vineyards: one the father's, one each for the sons. Swansong. Inlet. Black Rabbit. Each with their own unique character. Every harvest, the best fruit from these vineyards is saved to make the brothers' CERES blends. This wine is made by hand and hard graft.

### The Vineyard

Black Rabbit Vineyard is situated on Renshaw Ridge above the Bannockburn inlet. Ancient geology ranging from 4—400 million years old. The site is a steep North East facing slope with windblown schist loess over bedrock schist. On an elevation of 250—315m. 3.46 ha.

### Vintage 2016

A normal start to the season led to good flowering, but unseasonable cool weather in November halted growth. A warm December helped the vines to recover. The summer had a long, hot finish. The fruit was aromatic with a wider range of flavours. There is significant acid backbone which provides structure and will aid in the aging of this wine.

### Winemaking

The fruit was fermented with wild yeast and spent 26 days on the skins; 10 days cold soak, 9 days in ferment, 7 days post ferment. A philosophy of minimal oak influence was followed, maturation in wellseasoned, aged barrels provided an opportunity for the wine's development. Freedom from oak flavours allows the wine to shine as the most candid expression of Pinot Noir from this site. A total of 80 dozen bottled. Matured for 14 months in 4-year-old barrels.

### Tasting Note

Raymond Chan:

"Even ruby-red colour, lighter edged with slight purple hues. This has a beautifully fragrant nose with ethereal aromas of red berry fruits layered with an array of red florals, along with piquant herbal detail. This has aromatic finesse and intensity, and builds to form a taut core. Medium-full bodied, the palate has bright and vibrant, beautifully aromatic flavours of red berry fruit entwined with a layering of red florals, along with subtle notes of herbs. The mouthfeel is refreshing and crisp with a refined, but sinewy core and line, with fine-grained, flowery tannin extraction in support. The palate has fresh acidity in support enlivening the fruit expression,



info@thewinecave.nz

(+64) 9 930-8115

 <https://www.winecave.nz/>

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and the wine carries with good energy and tension to an elegant, lingering finish. This is a beautifully fragrant Pinot Noir with red berry fruits and an array of florals, with very fine-grained extraction and structure and a fresh mouthfeel. This is an expression of beauty. ”

<b>Alcohol Percentage</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Residual Sugar</b>	<b>Dry</b>
<b>T.A.</b>	<b>6.2 g/L</b>
<b>Aging Potential</b>	<b>7 + years</b>



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