

Hawkshead First Vine Pinot Noir 2015

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 specializes in growing Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris grapes and is recognized for producing award winning wines in New Zealand and overseas.

The Vineyard

The soil types of the Gibbston Valley are from the 'Pigburn' series. They contain up to 400-500 mms of windblown glacial deposits, overlaid with around 4-5 meters of free draining alluvial schist. The vineyard site is between 390 and 410 meters above sea level, and on average is likely to 'experience' 870 – 930 Growing Degree Days. Rainfall each year is approximately 650mm. Working within these parameters is challenging but we have an excellent team dedicated to producing the very best wine. Like the extreme adventure tourism Queenstown is famous for, growing grapes in this environment is an exciting business. 45 degrees south is right on the edge for viticulture.

Winemaking

The grapes for our Hawkshead 'Single Estate' First Vines are from the oldest planted vines. They like to think of 'growing' the wines rather than just making it. They crop lightly for well ripened and even fruit; the 2015 vintage presented a small but stunning crop. The wine is fermented naturally at both primary and MLF stages, 25 days on skins and 14% whole bunched pressed. Aged for 11.5 months in French oak barrels (33% new) No fining or filtering has taken place.

Tasting Note

These particular older vines have graced us with a sophisticated wine, which we believe is a pure expression of Gibbston. The nose displays uplifting aromatics of bright red fruits, wild rosehip, earthiness and charred rosemary. The mineral-driven palate accentuates the sweet, vibrant red cherry, subtle spice and elegant floral notes. 2015 shows excellent concentration with uplifting acidity and ripe seamless tannins. A perfect premium wine with warming tension, depth and verve. It will cellar exceptionally well although it is immensely enjoyable now.



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THE WINE CAVE
NEW ZEALAND


Alcohol Percentage	13.5 %
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	6.4 g/L
Aging Potential	7 + years



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