

Folding Hill Orchard Block Pinot Noir 2012

The Story

Folding Hill was an easy place to fall in love with. They had looked at over 30 potential sites in Central Otago by the time we walked out onto a bare sheep paddock nestled on a northern terrace of Bendigo Creek in 2001. It was deepest winter, the sky was azure and cloudless, the Pisa range covered in fresh snow. They felt the magic of the place.

Advised by legendary Central Otago viticulturist Robin Dicey, planting of our first vines commenced in late 2003. They carefully selected clones and rootstocks proven locally to make wines with complexity, flavour, balance and length and have done everything possible to ensure the vines have been able to reach their full potential. They strongly believe that low yields are of paramount importance in creating outstanding Pinot Noir and they manage their vines intensively through the growing season to ensure crop levels are around 3.5 - 4.5 tonnes per hectare.

The Vineyard

Bendigo's free draining gravel soils combine with an ideal climate to create the perfect terroir for growing pinot noir grapes and from the outset they have placed the highest importance on growing the very best quality fruit possible.

Almost all of the viticulture is done by hand. The vines are spur pruned in the winter and they use a vertical shoot positioning canopy system. Inground water monitoring allows them to precisely meet the vines' irrigation requirements.

Vintage 2012

2011/12 was a good growing season at Folding Hill and with a long settled Autumn they were able to pick exactly when they thought the grapes were ripe. As usual they thinned extensively and their final yield was approximately 4 tonnes / hectare. Grapes hand harvested 23rd April.

Winemaking

Clone 5 fruit from the 'Orchard Block' from 10 y.o. vines, hand-picked, fully destemmed and indigenous yeast fermented to 14.1% alc., the wine spending 7-10 days on skins, aged 20 months in one-third new French oak and bottle unfinned and unfiltered



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Tasting Note

Dark, deep, ruby-red colour with lighter garnet hues on rim. The nose is gentle and elegant with good volume of soft red berry fruits melded with fruit-cake and spices and secondary dried herb complexities, lifted by red floral notes. This is beginning to show some secondary development. Medium-full bodied, the red berry fruit is succulently sweet and rich, still tightly bound and forming a firm core with real substance, drive and line. Nuances of spice, oak, liquorice and dried herbs unfold in sweet and savoury layers. The palate is solid in construction, with very fine-grained, flowery tannins building to provide presence and vinosity. The acidity is soft and discreet, but lends cut and energy, and the wine carries with good drive leading to a tight, long and sustained, rich finish. This is a sweetly rich and savoury detailed Pinot Noir with a fine, firm structure that will develop even greater complexity over the next 6-8+ years.

Alcohol Percentage	14%
Residual Sugar	Dry
T.A.	
Aging Potential	10 + years



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