PINOT NOIR 2021

VINTAGE NOTES

2021 was a tale of two halves. Low yields and extremely vigilant vineyard management were essential due to the cool start to the growing season along with Spring frosts. We needed recorded highs in September and October, and we got them.

On the Danbury Ridge estate, growing degree days were higher than 2018 and 2020 at picking. It is a credit to the vigilance shown in the vineyards that we can reach good still wine ripeness even in marginal years.

Sugar levels were lower than usual because of a cold summer, but phenolic ripeness and flavour profiles were extremely good resulting in a delightful balance of acidity and sugar. With gentle vinification, respectful of the vintage, the wines will retain their freshness and bright fruit.

VINIFICATION

After handpicking and sorting, the fruit was gently destemmed without crushing to maintain whole berries. The grapes were then gravity-fed into open-top oak and concrete fermenters for 3 to 5 days cold soak. Temperatures were allowed to increase naturally, and the cap received just one to two punch downs per day. Some vats also received extended skin maceration. The wine was transferred to French oak barrels for MLF, battonage and 12 months ageing, before being bottled unfined and unfiltered.

THE VINEYARDS

Fruit for the 2021 Pinot Noir was carefully selected from across the Danbury Ridge estate. Despite their close proximity, the three estate vineyards display a rich and varied geology with individual mesoclimates. Glaciofluvial deposits of sandy gravel dominate the easterly Polo Field while loamy, carbonate rich clay of the estate's Sleipnir Block reins exclusively to the west.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Barrel aged:
  100% French oak for 12 months
- pH: 3.59
- TA: 5.0 g/L
- Alcohol: 13%

CRITICS REVIEW

Pure, fresh mid crimson. Nose is positively rich! Then very fresh (but not tart) and almost mineral on the end. Really pretty and fresher than the 2018. Hint of cinnamon.

Jancis Robinson

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DANBURY RIDGE
WINE ESTATE