



BANNOCK BRAE ESTATE PINOT NOIR, BARREL SELECTION

TASTING NOTES - 2007 Vintage

It is becoming generally recognised that the Central Otago 2007 vintage, although small in quantity, is one of the best yet in terms of quality. We believe this certainly holds true for this wine. It shows all the expected characteristics of a premium Central Otago Pinot noir. In particular, the colour is a rich plummy red and the flavours are primarily of black cherries, plum, and berries. Behind these primary flavours there are interesting hints of herbs, mushroom, and even liquorice complementing its smooth mouthfeel. All this is integrated with just the right balance of acid; and tannins - partly from the grapes themselves, and also judicious use of French oak barrels. Approximately 35% of this wine was matured in new barrels, with the balance matured in either one or two year old barrels.

Once again, this wine exhibits our "trade mark" seductive, silky texture, almost certainly due to our ability to fully ripen our fruit without allowing sugar levels to become out of balance.

This wine was neither fined nor filtered as it presented so well in the barrel, it was considered unnecessary, and our philosophy is to interfere with the wine to the least extent possible. Accordingly, a small deposit of harmless tartrates may form after cellaring.

The wine is produced from clones 5, 6, and the Dijon clone 115 to give extra complexity. We expect this very complex wine to develop further in the bottle for possibly 8-10 years.

The grapes were picked in mid April, 2006 in sound condition with no disease pressure at all. The average Brix of the fruit was 24.5. TA was approximately 6.3g/L with a pH of 3.25. During fermentation the musts were punched down 3 – 4 times daily. Total maceration time was around 3 weeks. Then the wine was gently pressed in an air bag press to 1.2 bar, and racked into barrels. Through winter, the wine underwent malolactic fermentation. In February the wine was bottled. The wine maker is Matt Connell.

In its very short life to date, this wine has been accorded a Gold Medal at both the New Zealand International Wine Show (2008), and the Royal Easter Show Wine Awards (2009).