

AKARUA
PINOT NOIR
2023
Central Otago - Bannockburn



Akarua is a unique site made of 52 ha (including 34.5 ha of vines) nestled in the foothills of snow-capped mountains, on the bank of the Kawarau River, upstream of Dunstan Lake and amid breathtaking scenery. Located in the Central Otago region, in Bannockburn, the vineyard is planted over three terraces facing west giving it intense all-day sun during the growing season. This exceptional terroir offers a great pinot noir expression, as a reflection of the dramatically beautiful mountains surrounding the estate. Akarua means "two vines" in Māori, referring to the original grape varieties planted in 1996 by the Sir Clifford Skeggs: pinot noir and chardonnay. They now represent 78.5 % and 2% of the parcels respectively, and a small amount of pinot gris and riesling completes the offering.

VINEYARD AREA : 26 ha
BLEND : 100% Pinot Noir
ALCOHOL : 13 %

THE VINEYARD

SOIL TYPE : Overlaying Loess, Manuherikia series fine sandy loam, clay illuvial with underlying schist bed rock.

AVERAGE AGE OF THE VINE : 27 years

ELEVATION : 230-270m

GRAPE VARIETIES : 100% Pinot Noir

PRUNING : VSP, Spur

HARVEST : Handpicked

HARVEST PERIOD : March 24th to March 31st

THE WINE

WINEMAKING : Carefully hand harvested grapes were batch fermented. Mostly destemmed with 15% of whole cluster component averaged across the batches. Fermented on skins for around three weeks. The resulting wine was gently pressed to French oak barrels for maturation.

AGEING : French Oak Barrels. 25% new

AGEING DURATION : 10 months.

TASTING COMMENTS



Medium purple with crimson hues.



Expressive and fragrant showing pretty florals, blueberry, blackberry, raspberry, thyme, spice and charry oak.



The palate is sweet on entry with dark cherry, black Doris plum, blackberry, red currant, mushroom and dark chocolate. Medium bodied, concentrated, finely balanced and very complex. Velvety silky fine tannin that leads into a very long mineral and plum finish.



Cellaring through 2032+

FOOD & WINE PAIRING

Can be enjoyed on its own as an aperitif or will make a great match with roast duck, grilled salmon, pork dishes, mushroom risotto, and roast beet salad.

RATINGS & COMMENTS

94/100 BOB CAMPBELL 2023

92/100 NEW WORLD PREMIUM PINOT NOIR 2023

17/20 EMMA JENKINS 2023



Vegan