

Blank Canvas

Blank Canvas Escaroth Vineyard Pinot Noir 2020

- Escaroth Vineyard | Taylor Pass | Marlborough -

TASTING NOTE Escaroth is a site that truly reflects vintage variation: this year's release simply ticks all the boxes for Pinot Noir fanatics. It has a beguiling, complex perfume that treads both red and blue fruit and an enchanting spice, game and earthy savouriness. The very low-yielding year coupled with the dry-farmed nature of the site has resulted in incredible concentration and intensity. 2020 was again a year that demanded the use of whole-bunch to ensure balanced extraction and lifted aromatics. The result is a very complex, savoury Pinot Noir with a structured yet elegant tannin framework.

VINTAGE. 2020 – the vintage to go down in the history books as one of the easiest and exciting from a fruit perspective, but one of the most challenging and stressful because of the Covid-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown. A warm spring and above average rainfall set the growing season up well with an excellent flowering. Drought conditions through summer but moderate temperatures meant vines did not become too stressed and fruit was in excellent, clean condition. Overall 2020 provided Pinot Noir with great purity of flavour, balance and precision.

VITICULTURE Escaroth Vineyard is a unique north-facing, hillside site on the Wairau valley side of the Taylor Pass. Vines were planted in 2001, and particularly rare for Marlborough, it is dry farmed. The Taylor Pass has the biggest diurnal range in all of Marlborough and is one of the driest subregions. The north-facing slope is essential for frost protection as well as exposure for ripening while the low-vigour old clay soils are perfect for Pinot Noir. The total Pinot Noir area is just under one hectare and is planted to Dijon clones 777 and 115. The vineyard is spur-pruned and VSP trained.

WINEMAKING. We hand-harvested the Escaroth Vineyard Pinot Noir on the 27th March 2020. 50% of the handpicked fruit was tipped into the open-tank fermenter as whole clusters, with the balance destemmed and crushed over the top. The fruit was kept cool until wild fermentation commenced after five days. The tank was hand-plunged throughout its 15-day fermentation period after which we drained and pressed the wine to barrel where it matured, completing natural malolactic fermentation in the process. The oak regime was 100% French oak barriques, all low-toast level (35% new) for almost 12 months, with a further 3 months in tank to gently and naturally settle. We bottled the wine without filtration on the 8th June 2021. Appellation Marlborough Wine Certified.

TECHNICAL ANALYSES

Alcohol	13%
pH	3.74
Acidity	5.3 g/L
Total SO ₂	38 mg/L
Residual sugar	Nil

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