

AKITU, CENTRAL OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND

MENTZENDORFF
wine/shippers since
1858

AKITU 'A1' PINOT NOIR

akitu

DETAILS OF PRODUCTION

Established in 2001 and set in the heart of Central Otago's Upper Clutha basin, Akitu's 12-hectare vineyard sits alone at 380 metres above sea level on a stunning north facing slope. The vineyard is entirely dedicated to Pinot Noir, block planted in 6 sections on 250-million-year-old schist soils; Blocks A and B were planted in 2002 with the remainder the following year. 40% of the fruit is whole bunch pressed with the balance pressed as whole berry. Ageing takes place in French oak of which 20% is new. Akitu 'A1' Pinot Noir consists of 65% Abel, 10% 777, 10% 115, 10% Clone 5 and 5.5% 667. Harvesting for the 2019 vintage 'A1' took place between 16th-17th April 2019 and 'A1' was bottled on 19th March 2020. This is the 8th vintage of the black label, and it without a doubt shows in its shape and structure that it is of the Hawkesbury vineyard.

TASTING NOTES

Dark garnet colour with a crimson edge in a deep plummy hue. The first aroma from this wine gives a hint to the depth and complexity that lies beneath, hidden for now in the glass. Layers of graphite, brown spice and wild herbs sit across dark plummy fruit. Ripe dark cherries, dark rose petal and a hint of sous bois are all coiled very tightly in a compact bundle of aromatic intensity. The palate opens with intense fruit concentration over a powerful tannin core. There are layers of textural phenolics pushed up against fruit plushness which impress and excite. A fine line of acidity ensures this wine will have a long and exciting evolution in front of it.

HOW TO SERVE

Impressive drinking now but the aromatic complex and savoury flavour profile will evolve over the next 5 to 10 years. Pair with spicy pork belly or Mediterranean style lamb. BBQ the lamb on an old school charcoal BBQ for 7 minutes each side over red-hot coals then rest for no less than 20 minutes.

"THIS IS A TIGHT-WOUND, STRUCTURED PINOT WITH SOME SAVOURY, GRAVELLY GRIP TO THE BLACK CHERRY AND BLACKBERRY FRUIT, WITH SOME RASPBERRY BRIGHTNESS AND A TOUCH OF STERNNESS ON THE FINISH. THE NOSE IS INTRIGUING, WITH FINE GREEN HINTS INTERWOVEN INTO THE SLIGHTLY SWEET AND SOUR FRUIT, AND SAVOURY OVERTONES. THERE'S LOTS OF FRUIT HERE, BUT IT IS CHAINED WITH FINE BUT FIRM TANNINS, AND IT HAS SOME TAUTNESS. YOU CAN DRINK IT NOW, AND IT OFFERS A LOT OF PLEASURE, BUT IT'S GRUNTY AND STERN ENOUGH TO REWARD SOME CELLARING. IMPRESSIVE STUFF, CHISELLED, BALANCED, BUT WITH LOVELY FRUIT, TOO." 95 POINTS

JAMIE GOODE, WINE ANORAK
DECEMBER 2021

www.akitu.co.nz

VINTAGE 2019
STYLE Red
BLEND OF GRAPES Pinot Noir
WINEMAKER PJ Charteris
ALCOHOL 13.7%

