

Blank Canvas

The Blank Canvas Escaroth Pinot Noir is an intense and terroir-driven Marlborough Pinot Noir that embodies the unique climate and dry-farmed vines of Taylor Pass.

Escaroth Pinot Noir 2020

Marlborough, New Zealand



Alcohol :13,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Region and Vineyards

Located in **Taylor Pass**, Marlborough, the **Escaroth Vineyard** enjoys a unique, north-facing slope and dry-farmed clay soils, uncommon for the region. Planted with **Dijon clones 777 and 115** in 2001, these low-yielding vines have adapted to the dry-farming approach, enhancing the intensity and depth of flavor in the fruit. The vineyard's location offers natural frost protection and benefits from Marlborough's **significant diurnal temperature variation**, essential for producing Pinot Noir with bright acidity and structured tannins.

The vineyard's dry-farming method, rare in the region, allows vines to develop deep root systems, capturing the underlying mineral characteristics of the clay soil and imparting a powerful terroir expression. This distinct vineyard is well-suited to the production of concentrated, nuanced Pinot Noir, making it one of Marlborough's most expressive sites.

Winemaking

This **vintage** saw favorable conditions that promoted small berries with intense flavor concentration. Grapes were harvested by hand and underwent a **50% whole-bunch fermentation** to enhance texture and complexity. After a five-day cold soak, natural fermentation with indigenous yeasts took place over **15 days**. To maintain a balanced extraction, gentle hand plunging was employed, preserving the elegance of the fruit.

Aging was conducted in **25% new French oak barrels** for 12 months, followed by three months in stainless steel to naturally settle before bottling. This slow maturation process allowed for the development of the wine's depth and structure, enhancing the aromas and building a rounded mouthfeel without filtration.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with garnet highlights.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of **violet, peony, red cherry, and pomegranate**, with layers of earth, spice, and subtle gamey notes.
- **Palate:** Concentrated flavors of **dark berry, red fruit, and savory earth**, supported by firm tannins and a lively, mineral-driven acidity that adds length to the finish.

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Did you know?

The **Escaroth Vineyard** is dry-farmed, a rare practice in Marlborough, which requires resilience from the vines and results in a Pinot Noir with greater concentration and a uniquely expressive character. This vineyard's ability to thrive without irrigation contributes to the intense flavors and mineral structure found in the Escaroth Pinot Noir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck Breast with Cherry Reduction:** Complements the wine's red fruit and earthy undertones, enhancing the richness of the dish.
- **Wild Mushroom Risotto:** Earthy mushrooms mirror the wine's savory notes and harmonize with its fresh acidity.
- **Rack of Lamb with Rosemary:** The wine's structure and layered flavors balance the lamb's herbaceous and savory qualities.
- **Aged Brie or Camembert:** Creamy, earthy cheeses bring out the wine's complexity, enhancing its fruitiness and depth.

94 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 94 Points (2020)

The vividly aromatic notes of Morello cherry, suffused with the gorgeous pepperiness of rain-wet briar hedges, immediately signal the poise and red-fruited nature of Gibbston. The fruit is ripe, absolutely juicy but remains wonderfully translucent, with every berry and cherry nuance, every shimmer of spiciness, highlighted by brilliant acidity and supported by silk chiffon tannins. The inclusion of 50% whole bunches in the ferment and masterfully integrated use of low-toasted oak only help to heighten the delicacy of this Pinot.