



# Escarpment

The Escarpment Kiwa Pinot Noir is a quintessential Martinborough Pinot Noir, showcasing its famous alluvial terrace soils. This wine presents a complex interplay of red fruits, spice, and savoury characters, enhanced by its smooth tannins and elegant structure.



Alcohol :12,70 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

## Kiwa Pinot Noir 2020

Martinborough, New Zealand

### Region and Vineyards

The **Kiwa vineyard**, located within the **Martinborough** township, is one of the older, more established plots in the district. It is part of the **alluvial terrace** that characterizes Martinborough's terroir, with deep gravel soils providing excellent drainage and imparting mineral complexity to the wines. The vineyard is planted with **UCD Clones 5 and 6**, known for producing **complex and spicy Pinot Noir** with a layered, elegant profile.

This vineyard's unique combination of mature vines and alluvial soils ensures that each vintage expresses the character of the land, delivering wines with depth, complexity, and age-worthiness.

### Winemaking

The **Kiwa Pinot Noir** underwent **destemming** before fermentation in open-top vessels, with the inclusion of some **whole bunch** clusters. The fermentation was conducted using **indigenous yeasts**, enhancing the wine's sense of place and natural character. Gentle extraction was achieved by **hand plunging once a day**, with a total vat time of **22 days**.

The wine was then aged for **16 months** in **French oak barriques** (31% new oak), adding depth and complexity. It was bottled without **fining or filtration**, ensuring a textured mouthfeel and a pure expression of the vineyard's fruit.

### Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby red.
- **Aroma:** A vibrant bouquet of **raspberry**, **sour cherry**, and **red currant**, intertwined with floral notes of **bergamot** and **Chinese five spice**. The savoury complexity reveals itself with hints of **bay leaf** and **Chinese black tea**.
- **Palate:** The palate offers firm tannins that enhance the wine's structure, with a pleasing balance of bright fruit and savoury notes. The texture is smooth, and the wine has excellent aging potential, capable of developing further complexity over the next **10 years**.



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## Did you know?

The **Kiwa** Pinot Noir is named after one of the original Maori explorers, symbolizing the deep connection between the vineyard and the land. This wine reflects the natural harmony and balance of its terroir, making it a benchmark for Martinborough Pinot Noir .

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Venison stew:** The firm tannins and savoury complexity of the wine match well with the gamey richness of venison.
- **Duck breast with berry sauce:** The bright red fruit flavors complement the sweet and tangy berry sauce, while the herbal notes enhance the duck's flavors.
- **Roasted quail with herbs:** The delicate herbal and savoury nuances of the wine pair beautifully with roasted quail seasoned with bay leaf and thyme.
- **Mushroom risotto:** The earthy richness of mushrooms pairs well with the wine's spicy and savoury layers, providing a balanced and flavorful pairing.



### Robert Parker (RP) : 91 Points (2020)

*The 2020 Kiwa Pinot Noir is from the original Kiwa vineyard in Martinborough town (now not servicing the Kiwa cuvée from the 2022 vintage). On the nose, the wine is sedate and placid, but in the mouth, it has lovely energy and poise. The wine has weight and girth on the mid-palate, but it has agility and liveness as well. It's athletic but chunky, if that makes sense to you. It does me. There's spiced Christmas cherry, licorice, arnica, star anise and pink peppercorns, sweet roasted meat crust and earthy beetroot. Ripeness sits nicely in the wine, feeling part of its identity. Savory block and looking savory today. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap. Kiwa was picked on March 17, with 57% whole bunch. Clones 5 and 6 were used, and it spent 22 days on skins, plunged twice daily. Aged in 31% new oak, it matured for 16 months with one racking during the journey and was bottled unfined and unfiltered.*



### James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2017)

*Very attractive perfume, spice and earthy depth here, as well as vibrant, red-cherry and berry aromas. There's very attractive tautness to this pinot with crisp tannins that define ripe red cherries and red plums in assertive and succulent style. The refined power is striking.*



### Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2017)

*#43 Wine Enthusiast Top 100 of 2019 From 30-year-old vines in deep alluvial gravels, this is a spicy and pristine wine that's approachable now but is also very cellar worthy. A heady perfume of blueberries, pomegranates, tobacco leaves, scrubby Mediterranean herbs, florals and crushed stones kicks it all off. Then the palate takes it all to another level, bursting with crunchy, juicy fruit, crystalline-like minerality and savory spices, all threaded together with structured ultrafine tannins.*

