

Rippon

Rippon Mature Vine Pinot Noir is a fine expression of New Zealand terroir, showcasing the depth and complexity of mature Pinot Noir vines grown on the shores of Lake Wanaka in Central Otago.

RIPPON

97 James Suckling



Alcohol :13,68 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Pinot Noir Mature Vine 2020

Central Otago, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

The **Rippon Vineyards** are located on the **western shores of Roy's Bay** at **Lake Wanaka** in Central Otago, New Zealand, one of the southernmost wine regions in the world. The **north-facing escarpment** of the vineyard sits on a foundation of **schist-based soils**, with layers of terminal moraines and coarse gravels. These unique soil types play a critical role in shaping the distinct mineral character of the wines produced here. The site benefits from a **continental climate**, with significant diurnal temperature shifts that help retain acidity and fresh aromatics in the grapes, while providing ample sunshine to ripen the fruit to perfection.

The **Mature Vine Pinot Noir** is sourced from **fully developed vines**, planted predominantly with a selection of Pinot Noir clones, including **clones 5 and 6, Abel, 667, and 777**, which contribute to the wine's complexity. These vines have been planted at varying densities (3800-5700 vines per hectare), providing a concentration of flavor in the fruit. The grapes are handpicked in small batches to ensure only the highest quality fruit reaches the winery.

Winemaking

The 2020 vintage was carefully harvested between the **16th and 30th of April**. After handpicking, the grapes were transported in small, 10 kg cases to prevent any damage. The fruit underwent fermentation in small **stainless-steel fermenters** (2 tonnes), with each parcel vinified separately to capture the diversity of clones, vine ages, and micro-terroirs within the vineyard. The **resident yeasts** from the vineyard (non-inoculated fermentation) conducted the fermentation, which lasted 9-11 days, with fermentation temperatures ranging from **11 to 30°C**.

The wine spent between **14 and 28 days on the skins**, depending on the parcel, to develop structure and depth of flavor. After fermentation, the wine was aged for **12 months** in **French oak barrels** (17% new), followed by an additional **6 months in the same barrels**. Malolactic fermentation occurred naturally in the spring, and the wine was bottled in **November 2021** without fining or filtration to preserve its natural complexity and texture.

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Bright ruby with youthful violet hues.
- **Aroma**: The nose offers an intricate bouquet of **red cherry, raspberry, and wild strawberry**, complemented by subtle floral notes of **violet** and hints of **dried herbs**, **earthy undertones**, and a touch of **minerality**.
- **Palate**: On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied with **vibrant acidity** and **silky tannins**. Flavors of **red fruit**, such as **cranberry** and **raspberry**, are layered with complex notes of **forest floor**, **sous-bois**, and a delicate **spice** from the well-integrated oak. The finish is long and mineral-driven, with a lingering elegance.

Did you know?

Rippon Vineyards is renowned for its biodynamic farming practices, which emphasize the health of the vineyard's ecosystem and its surrounding environment. The estate is a pioneer of organic and biodynamic viticulture in New Zealand, further enhancing the purity of the wines they produce.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck confit**: The wine's acidity and bright red fruit flavors complement the richness of the duck, while its earthy undertones enhance the dish's savory aspects.
- **Wild mushroom risotto**: The wine's forest floor notes pair perfectly with the earthy, umami-rich flavors of the mushrooms, while its vibrant acidity cuts through the creaminess of the risotto.
- **Grilled lamb chops**: The soft tannins and spice of the wine harmonize with the smoky, tender lamb, while the fresh acidity provides balance.
- **Beef carpaccio**: The wine's delicate red fruit and mineral qualities highlight the savory, tender texture of the raw beef, with the wine's acidity enhancing the dish's lightness.

97 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2020)

Extremely perfumed with a pretty ripeness and clarity, offering plums and al-dente strawberries. Some cantaloupe, too. It's medium- to full-bodied with juicy fruit that's lovely and open. You want to drink it now. And do. Crunchy yet velvety and caressing in the mouth-feel from the lovely, open tannins. From biodynamically grown grapes with Demeter certification. Best in a year or two, but right on.

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Decanter (DCT) : 95 Points (2020)

Grown on coarse schist, this wine unites all the mature vines of the whole property, including parcels from Emma's Block and Tinker's Field. Intense iron oxide and the scent of cherry and plum skin, still smoky, flinty and funky in parts, make for an intriguing nose. More air then brings floral overtones and maple syrup spice. The palate immediately shows white pepper and briar rose, while fine, smooth tannins have unobtrusive density and light-footed juiciness. The finish is salty and spicy, that blood-like sense of iron oxide is back, lending a beautiful salty echo on this wine that is more about deep-seated savouriness and fine structure rather than obvious fruit.

Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2020)

Erin Larkin 93 Points The 2020 Rippon Mature Vine Pinot Noir is restrained on the nose, with an earthy (i.e., of the earth, gray rocks, etc.) countenance that I find highly engaging. In the mouth, the fruit comes alive with cherry and cranberry, pomegranate pearls, graphite and pencil lead, layers of black tea, coal dust and brine. This is dark without being heavy or dense, and it's very fine. The silty tannins linger through the finish and seem to settle on the palate, which is pleasurable. It's fresh, and it's restrained and composed. An exciting wine. 13.5% alcohol, sealed under Diam.