Burn Cottage

Produced from vines over 20 years old, this Pinot Noir showcases the rich character of the Sauvage Vineyard , with a blend of vibrant red fruits, savory undertones, and a textured palate.

BURN COTTAGE

96 James Suckling

Sauvage Vineyard Pinot Noir 2020

Central Otago, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

The **Sauvage Vineyard** is located in the **Bannockburn** sub-region of **Central Otago**, New Zealand's premier Pinot Noir producing area. This site is situated under foothills once known for gold mining, now covered with **wild thyme and rosehip**, creating a striking backdrop for the vineyard. The region's **continental climate**, with warm days and cool nights, allows for slow ripening, resulting in wines with vibrant acidity and concentrated flavors.

This vintage began with cool and changeable conditions, accompanied by regular rainfall in November and December, which extended the flowering period. However, temperatures rose in January, leading to favorable summer conditions, while mild weather in March and early April allowed for extended ripening. This slow maturation preserved both balance and acidity in the grapes, ensuring a wine of great depth and complexity.

Winemaking

The **Burn Cottage Sauvage Vineyard Pinot Noir** was harvested, with an average **Brix** of **23** at harvest. The winemaking process emphasizes minimal intervention to express the vineyard's natural characteristics. The wine was fermented using **16% whole clusters**, which added complexity and structure. It spent an average of **20 days in fermenters**, ensuring a gentle extraction of color and tannins.

The wine was aged for **11 months** in **25% new French oak barrels**, from prestigious cooperages including **Damy**, **Mercurey**, and **Sylvain**. This careful use of oak brings depth and nuance without overpowering the purity of the fruit. The final blend is composed of multiple Pinot Noir clones, including **CL 5 (22%)**, **CL 6 (14%)**, **CL 115 (34%)**, and **CL 777 (30%)**.

Alcohol :13,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

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Sauvage Vineyard Pinot Noir 2020

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with excellent clarity.
- **Aroma**: A captivating bouquet of **cherry** and **red fruits**, intertwined with floral notes and hints of **black tea** and **olive**, underpinned by savory earthiness.
- **Palate**: The palate is dense yet elegant, with a characteristic texture from the vineyard. Flavors of red fruit are balanced by savory, earthy elements, and the wine flows seamlessly, supported by fine tannins and lively acidity. There is a **powerful yet refined** quality to the wine, making it both complex and approachable.
- **Finish**: Long and persistent, with structured tannins and bright acidity offering excellent aging potential.

Did You Know?

The **Sauvage Vineyard** is named after the wild landscape surrounding the vineyard, which is framed by hills that were once prized for their gold deposits. Today, this area is highly sought after for Pinot Noir, and the wild thyme and rosehip that grow nearby contribute subtle herbal notes to the wine's aromatic profile.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast duck with thyme and cherry sauce**: The wine's red fruit and savory elements pair beautifully with the rich flavors of duck and the herbal thyme.
- **Lamb with rosemary and garlic**: The wine's earthy complexity complements the richness of lamb, while its acidity cuts through the fat.
- **Mushroom risotto**: The earthiness of the mushrooms enhances the savory, bramble-like character of the wine.
- **Grilled salmon with herb butter**: The wine's bright acidity and refined structure match well with the richness of salmon and herb-infused dishes.

James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2020)

Complex aromas of strawberry tart, earth, cloves, and nutmeg follow through to a medium body with firm tannins and a fresh finish. Linear and very fine. Impressive elegance at the end.

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2020)

The 2020 Sauvage Vineyard Pinot Noir is from Bannockburn and is so different from the Burn Cottage Vineyard in aromatics and presence. On the nose, the wine is throaty and full, with cherries, pomegranate, raspberry pip and pink peppercorns. This is supple, rich and full, with pastry, pepper-rolled pastrami, violets and brine. Excellent wine. It's bigger than the Burn Cottage Vineyard. There is a lovely chalky and gently grippy tannin splay through the finish. Sixteen percent whole cluster, 20 days on skins, three coopers and four different clones: clone 5/Pommard, clones 6, 115 and 777.

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