

Blank Canvas

Crafted with precision, this Pinot Noir from the Anthem Vineyard reveals a striking balance between red fruit, herbal undertones, and earthy complexity.

Anthem Vineyard Pinot Noir 2021

Central Otago, New Zealand



Region and Vineyards

The **Anthem Vineyard** is nestled in the **Gibbston Valley** of Central Otago, one of New Zealand's most celebrated Pinot Noir regions. This area is known for its cool climate, with higher altitude vineyards that contribute to longer ripening periods, resulting in grapes with **intense aromatics and high acidity**. The soil in Gibbston Valley is composed primarily of **schist-derived alluvial soils** that offer excellent drainage, allowing vines to develop deep root systems and enhancing the concentration of flavors in the grapes. These conditions are ideal for producing Pinot Noir that is both structured and expressive, with the potential for long aging.

This vintage in Central Otago was marked by steady, warm conditions that allowed for full ripeness without excessive heat. This vintage is often described as "classic" for New Zealand Pinot Noir, with a balance of ripeness, natural acidity, and tannin structure.

Winemaking

The **Blank Canvas Anthem Vineyard Pinot Noir** is a meticulously crafted wine, emphasizing both structure and depth. After careful hand-harvesting, the grapes are sorted and prepared for fermentation, with a significant portion of **whole-bunch clusters** included to add complexity and a slight tannic edge. Fermentation occurs naturally, with minimal intervention, to preserve the grape's unique character and its reflection of the Gibbston Valley terroir. The wine then undergoes **extended maceration** to enhance color and flavor concentration.

After fermentation, the wine is transferred to **French oak barrels**, with a carefully selected proportion of new oak to subtly integrate wood nuances without overshadowing the fruit. The wine spends around **12 months in barrel**, allowing it to develop texture and complexity while preserving freshness and vibrancy. Bottling is done without filtration to maintain the wine's purity and integrity.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: A rich, deep ruby red, indicative of concentration and intensity.
- **Aroma**: The nose opens with aromas of **wet earth, dried herbs, and tar**, complemented by complex savory notes reminiscent of **chicken stock**. Subtle hints of red fruits and spice add layers of interest.
- **Palate**: The palate is finely structured, with a balance of ripe red fruit and savory undertones. Notes of **pepper and herbal complexity** come through, supported by well-integrated tannins and a saline, slightly salty finish that adds length and depth.

Did You Know?

The **Anthem Vineyard** Pinot Noir is part of the **Blank Canvas** project by **Matt Thomson** and **Sophie Parker-Thomson**, both of whom bring extensive international experience to their New Zealand winemaking. The use of whole-bunch fermentation in this wine is intended to add a distinct, savory edge that enhances its **ageability and complexity**. Their approach merges scientific precision with a commitment to showcasing the true character of Central Otago's terroir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roasted duck with cherry reduction**: The savory and peppery notes of the wine complement the richness of duck, while the cherry reduction highlights the wine's fruit profile.
- **Wild mushroom risotto**: The earthy flavors of the wine pair well with mushrooms, while the wine's acidity cuts through the creaminess of the risotto.
- **Herb-crusted lamb chops**: The herbal undertones in the wine mirror the herbs in the crust, making this a harmonious and flavorful pairing.
- **Aged Gruyère or Comté cheese**: The complexity and slight saltiness of the wine balance the nutty, aged flavors of these cheeses.

95 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 95 Points (2019)

The Anthem Vineyard sits in the coolest part of Central Otago – which itself is the most southerly vineyard region in the world – and when it escapes frost and is able to ripen its fruit, the Gibbston Valley can sing sweetly. The 2019 Pinot Noir Anthem Vineyard is undeniably cloudy, being unfiltered, but this means all the good stuff is left in. It is mysterious and brooding, luring you into a labyrinth of flavours and textures. Its cool origins (plus the inclusion of whole clusters) are on display in its exotically spiced fragrance of woody herbs, wormwood, pine and red cherry. Soothing in its feel and caress, this is a wine that acts as the equivalent of two nights in a spa hotel. Round but never heavy with supple tannins that lightly coat your cheeks, this is a hugely pleasurable wine already and will continue to be over the medium term.