



Burn Cottage

Combining fruit from Burn Cottage, Sauvage, and Luna Vineyards, this Pinot Noir showcases a seamless integration of fruit, texture, and earthy undertones, offering both immediate drinkability and the potential for aging.

BURN COTTAGE



Moonlight Race Pinot Noir 2021

Central Otago, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

This wine is a blend from three vineyard sites within the **Central Otago** region:

- **Burn Cottage Vineyard** (56%) in Lowburn, planted with a mix of Pinot Noir clones, including **114**, **115**, **777**, **667**, **Abel**, and **10/5**, giving depth and complexity to the wine.
- **Sauvage Vineyard** (22%) and **Luna Vineyard** (22%), both in **Bannockburn**, contribute fruit that adds layers of spice, structure, and earthiness. Each site benefits from Central Otago's **continental climate**, which features **warm days and cool nights**, allowing for slow ripening and retention of natural acidity.

This vintage experienced a warm, dry spring, although some frost events required protective measures. Cool weather during flowering led to smaller crops in some blocks, while January brought significant rainfall, comprising a third of the annual precipitation. From February, conditions stabilized, with warm, dry weather leading up to harvest. This allowed the grapes to ripen fully, resulting in a wine of balanced concentration and freshness.

Winemaking

The **Moonlight Race** was crafted using a mix of **7% whole clusters** to introduce additional complexity and structure. The wine spent an average of **17 days in fermenters** to ensure gentle extraction of tannins and color. It was then aged for **11 months** in **22% new French oak barrels**, sourced from renowned cooperages including **Damy**, **Mercurey**, and **Sylvain**.

This wine is a blend of various Pinot Noir clones: **CL 5**, **115**, **114**, **Abel**, **777**, and **667**. The combination of these clones and the three vineyard sites provides a layered, nuanced wine with both richness and finesse.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with bright clarity.
- **Aroma:** The wine opens with vibrant aromas of **bright cherry** and **plum**, interwoven with notes of **spice**, **pepper**, and savory **earthiness**. There are subtle hints of herbs and a touch of **black tea**.
- **Palate:** The palate is both layered and expressive, with a core of supple, ripe fruit and fine-textured tannins that extend across the mouth. The flavors of **red fruit**, **earth**, and **spice** create a complex, well-rounded wine, with a persistent, refreshing finish. The wine is approachable now but promises to evolve over the next **7 years**.

Did You Know?

The name "**Moonlight Race**" refers to a water channel historically used to convey water from the Southern Alps to Central Otago for gold mining. Today, it symbolizes the connection between the natural forces and the vineyards that produce this expressive Pinot Noir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast duck with plum sauce:** The wine's bright fruit and savory notes complement the richness of duck, while its acidity cuts through the fat.
- **Mushroom risotto:** The earthy flavors of the wine pair beautifully with the umami richness of mushrooms.
- **Lamb chops with rosemary:** The wine's fine tannins and complex spice enhance the savory herbs and tender meat.
- **Grilled salmon with a miso glaze:** The wine's freshness and subtle spice match well with the richness and umami of grilled salmon.



James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2021)

Lots of boysenberry and strawberry aromas and flavors with an underlying smoky and mineral edge. It's full and layered with beautiful tannins and a long and flavorful finish. A little tight at the end. Gorgeous and curated.



Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2021)

The 2021 Moonlight Race Pinot Noir is a blend of three different vineyards and multiple blocks and clones (56% is Burn Cottage in Lowburn, 22% is Sauvage Vineyard and 22% is Luna Vineyard in Bannockburn). On the nose, there is fresh red cherry, plum skin, raspberry pip and brine. The tannins are super fine in the mouth—pulverized and chalky. This is a gorgeous wine, mineral and cooling, with a svelte shape and satisfying flow of flavor across the tongue. Great! And, it must also be said, great value. 13.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.



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Wine Spectator (WS) : 96 Points (2020)

*Aromatic, succulent, fresh and distinctive, with fleshy black cherry, blueberry and marionberry flavors at the core—but that's just the beginning, as details of fresh clove cigarette, white truffle, chai, dried lavender and a whiff of sandalwood emerge on a delicate, juicy frame, with the tannins lingering in the background. *



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