Ata Rangi

This wine is a blend of the best fruit from Ata Rangi's oldest Pinot Noir plantings , resulting in a highly perfumed, structured, and poised wine that reflects the estate's reputation for crafting exceptional Pinot Noir.

ATA RANGI
·MARTINBOROUGH·

Martinborough Pinot Noir 2020

Martinborough, New Zealand

98
James Suckling

Region and Vineyards

The **Martinborough Terrace** is one of New Zealand's most celebrated regions for Pinot Noir, known for its **cool-climate conditions** and **free-draining alluvial soils**. These factors combine to produce Pinot Noir with a clear expression of fruit, balanced by fresh acidity and refined tannins. The **2020 vintage** in Martinborough was described as "typical" in the best sense, offering optimal conditions for producing high-quality Pinot Noir.

The fruit for this wine comes from **six small vineyards**, all within 500 meters of the Ata Rangi winery, ensuring a consistent expression of the estate's terroir. The oldest plantings, including **clones Abel, Dijon (115, 667, 777), and Clone 5**, contribute to the complexity and elegance of the wine. Ata Rangi's commitment to **organic farming** enhances the natural balance and purity of the fruit.

Winemaking

The winemaking process began with **40% whole bunch fermentation**, with the remainder of the grapes destemmed. The fermentation was conducted by **indigenous yeasts**, a method that preserves the unique character of the vineyard. The fruit spent **15-23 days** in the fermenters, allowing for maximum extraction of flavor and tannin.

After pressing, the wine completed its **malolactic fermentation in French oak barrels**, where it was aged for a total of **11 months** in **35% new oak**. Once blended, the wine was held for an additional **8 months** before bottling, ensuring the development of complex flavors and a well-integrated structure. The final wine has an alcohol content of **13.9%**, a **pH of 3.60**, and **total acidity of 5.2 g/L**.

Alcohol :13,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with a vibrant core.
- **Aroma**: A full, fragrant nose with notes of **juniper, cranberry, and red plum**, intertwined with spice and herbal nuances of **cardamom, pink peppercorn, and dried oregano**.
- **Palate**: The wine opens bright and supple, with finely coating tannins that extend the full length of the palate. Flavors of **red fruit** are balanced by savory and spice notes, creating a harmonious and elegant profile. The finish is long and confident, with a touch of minerality adding depth and finesse.

Did you know?

Ata Rangi is a **certified organic** estate, reflecting the winery's commitment to sustainability and natural winemaking practices. The **Abel clone**, often referred to as the "Ata Rangi clone," is a key component of the winery's Pinot Noir. This clone is believed to have originated from Domaine de la Romanée-Conti in Burgundy, smuggled into New Zealand in the 1970s and now forms the backbone of many top-tier Pinot Noirs in the country.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck breast with cherry sauce**: The wine's bright acidity and red fruit flavors complement the rich, gamey flavors of the duck, while the spice and herbal notes enhance the sauce's depth.
- **Mushroom risotto**: The earthy undertones of the Pinot Noir pair well with the umami richness of the mushrooms, and its tannin structure cuts through the creaminess of the risotto.
- **Herb-crusted lamb**: The wine's fine tannins and savory herbal notes are a natural match for the flavors of rosemary and thyme in the lamb crust.
- **Beetroot and goat cheese salad**: The wine's acidity balances the sweetness of the beetroot, while its creamy texture complements the tanginess of the goat cheese.

98 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 98 Points (2020)

A beautiful nose of sliced strawberries, crushed cherries, violets, grated nutmeg and a hint of white pepper. Some hibiscus, too. Supremely vibrant and perfumed with fine tannins that run the length of the medium-bodied palate. Textural. Ground spice and fresh fruit are intertwined, providing wonderful depth and complexity. So long as well. Seamless balance. Superb. Sustainable.

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Martinborough Pinot Noir 2020

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 96 Points (2020)

The 2020 Pinot Noir reminds me of walking into a cathedral - that quiet, cool hush that falls as you walk through its doors. This is harmonious, supple, unshowy and unforced. Hailing from old vines and delicately textured despite the abundance of fruit concentration. Refined tannins with the finest of gravelly textures, akin to licking a stone. Scented yet restrained, with a fragrance of sweet red fruit, tea leaf and cedar spices with persistent acidity that carries it. Very complete and already approachable. (RG)

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2020)

This is a classic expression of this renowned winery's estate vines, now over 40 years old, on alluvial gravels. It opens with a rich bouquet of heady spices, dried florals, cherry cola and cinnamon bark, and there's some vanillin oak influence, too. There's density and concentration to the palate. It walks a tightrope of power and elegance, with chiseled, distinctly textured tannins and finely tuned oak. (CP)