

Alc 13.8% **pH** 3.58 **TA** 5.7 g/l

SEASON SUMMARY

The 2015 growing season had a cool dry start, numerous frost events provided challenges right up until flowering. A cool mid-November to mid-December period disrupted flowering leading to a 15% reduction in crop compared to the previous season.

Fortunately, the weather took a turn for the better from mid-December. Above-average temperatures in January, low yields and the driest growing season on record led to early ripening. The season's dry conditions meant an increased focus on efficient viticultural practices to ensure the vines were protected from severe stress.

Harvest took place under excellent ripening conditions. A touch of warmth encouraged the grapes to mature with powerful concentration and a serious structural dimension. Harvest began on March 20th and finished on April 4th, with the yield 20% below average. The up-side? Exceptional density and complexity of flavour in the fruit.

KEY VINEYARDS

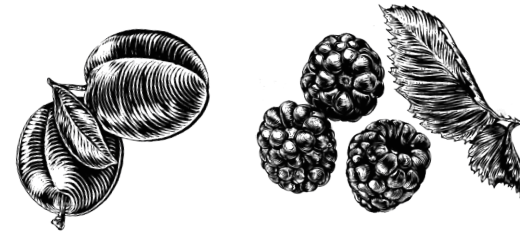
Our Pinot Noir comes from iconic vineyards in Marlborough's southern Wairau Valley, including our very special Mustang and Barracks vineyards. These sites sit on stratified layers of aged alluvial gravel topsoils and dense clay subsoils, balancing drainage



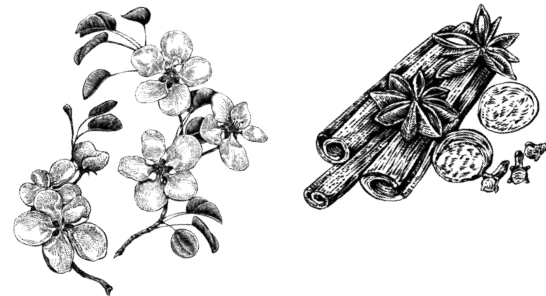
and water availability and yielding Marlborough's best Pinot Noir. The vines are trained with a vertical shoot positioned canopy.

WINEMAKING & BLENDING

The Pinot Noir fruit was all de-stemmed before being gravity-fed into the open-topped fermentation vessels, with 13% whole bunch inclusion. The grape skins were gently plunged with an average of 18 days of skin contact. After fermentation the wines were matured for 12 months in French oak, of which 35% was new.



NOSE: Our 2015 Pinot Noir is refined, intriguing and seductive. On the nose, you'll find dark and velvety cherry fruit, along with more unctuous baked morello cherry and juicy Doris plums. Given air, subtle rose notes bloom with sweet spice.



PALATE: The palate is taut and structured, with supple tannins and crunchy acidity. The complexity builds with earthen notes of graphite, smoke and toasty oak characters.



Pinot Noir

2015