

SEASON SUMMARY

The 2020 growing season was a cool one, bookended by frosts. Unsettled and windy weather during the early part of the season led to both drawn-out flowering and poor fruit set, leading to small bunches. During a colder-than-average summer, this smaller crop ensured that quality and concentration were maintained and maturity was achieved by harvest. The season left us in the same manner it had arrived, and we had to fight the frost the night before our first hand-pick of the year.

2020 was also memorable as it was the year of COVID-19, which added challenges to our situation, although we remained grateful that we were allowed to continue with harvest during what was a difficult time for everyone.

We hand-picked the grapes between the 29th of March and the 18th of April.

KEY VINEYARDS

Founders' Cellar Central Otago Pinot Noir is created from the fruit of two contrasting vineyards: Northburn and Calvert.

Northburn sits on the steep, hilly east bank of Lake Dunstan. The vines here spread across terraces of unforgiving, rocky, glacial soils. Helped by the large diurnal shifts of warm days and cool nights, these soils produce fruit of great structure and intensity. Calvert, on Felton Road in Bannockburn, sits in the silty, loamy soils and rolling terrain of an ancient lakebed. Calvert produces opulent, elegant and sweetly-scented fruit.

WINEMAKING & BLENDING

The grapes were predominantly de-stemmed into open-top fermenters, undergoing a five-day cold soak before starting fermentation. Cap management consisted of plunging between one and four times daily, with a maximum fermentation temperature of 30 degrees Celsius. The wine was on skins for approximately 21 days, with the pressing date determined by taste. After 12 months of barrel-ageing in French oak barriques, of which 30% were new, the wine was bottled in June 2021.

Alc	pH	TA
13.82%	3.77	5.04g/l

NOSE

The 2020 Founders' Cellar Central Otago Pinot Noir is open and expressive, carrying notes of boysenberry, violets, and anaerobic-fermented coffee beans.



PALATE

The palate is similarly open and appealing, with soft damson plum and hedgerow fruit framed by a touch of toastiness, gentle tannins and a bright acidity akin to biting into fridge-cold blueberries.



Founders' Cellar

CENTRAL OTAGO PINOT NOIR
2020