



## BEL ECHO PINOT NOIR 2012

### BY CLOS HENRI

#### WHAT IS BEL ECHO?

Bel Echo, the French translation of 'beautiful echo', is the echo or opposite of our Clos Henri wines. Bel Echo is a terroir selection from our estate. Grapes for the Pinot Noir are sourced predominantly from a small, stony block on the western side of our estate. Bel Echo Pinot Noir has great purity and fruit brightness from the Greywacke stones, whereas the Clos Henri Pinot Noir is more of a voluptuous expression from the clay.

#### WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

*"We believe we have to make the most of the experience acquired by the Bourgeois family, thereby making a Pinot Noir that respects the French winemaking tradition. We also believe that we ought to make a wine that respects the Marlborough character. This wine shows great classical lines while enriched with the astonishing Marlborough fruit personality. This personality is sourced from our unique terroir and revealed through its fine aromatic intensity. With the vines getting older, the quality and finesse of the Bel Echo is continuously surprising us and hints at the true potential of our site."* Damien Yvon, Winemaker

#### VITICULTURE

Terroir: Greywacke riverbed (65%), Broadbridge clay (35%)

High Density Planting: 5050 vines/ha

Yield: 6t / Ha (45HI/Ha)

Grown predominantly on our stony free draining soils, this Pinot Noir expresses great lifted bright fruit notes and a hint of smokiness while being quite linear and tight in mouth giving fascinating characters and personality.

2012 was the third vintage that we used no irrigation in the vineyard. These strict water conditions stressed the vines to just the right level in order to improve tannin structure and enable the roots to go deeper in the soil, thereby getting the purest expression of our terroir.

#### WINEMAKING

This wine was fermented in large French oak vats and then 40% was aged in these large oak vats to maintain fruit integrity. The remaining 60% went to old French oak barrels. This fine balance between the fruit and the oak enables the tannins to soften while helping to develop a vibrant and charismatic Pinot Noir.

#### TASTING

Aromas of violets, dark red berries and plums come through followed by a touch of liquorice spice and mushrooms. In the mouth the wine is rounded with lovely smoky oak tannins and a juicy mouth feel. Good structure and long length gives us hints at the aging potential of 5-6 years.



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