



PETIT CLOS PINOT NOIR 2011 BY CLOS HENRI

WHAT IS PETIT CLOS?

Petit Clos, translated from French to mean 'small enclosed vineyard', captures the essence of our estate. Petit Clos wines come from our youngest vines and are a blend of grapes from our 3 different soil types; Wither clay, Broadbridge clay and Greywacke river stone. Careful fruit selection and great attention to detail was carried out in the vineyard and the winery to match the beautiful terroir we have at Clos Henri. We aim to make Petit Clos Pinot Noir in a fruity yet elegant style with plenty of savoury fruit and structure.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

"2011 was a year which proved you can't make terroir driven wines from recipe. Each season is different and the wines need to be handled so. The 2011 season was fresher and slightly wetter than usual, leading to delayed maturity which pushed harvest back two weeks. This challenging vintage proved how important it is to work with great terroir." Damien Yvon, Winemaker

VITICULTURE

Terroir: Wither clay, Broadbridge clay and Greywacke river stone estate grown, young vines of Clos Henri Vineyard

High Density Planting: 5050 vines/Ha

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

In the French tradition, our vineyard is planted in high density (around twice higher than the New Zealand average), together with small yields, we get better fruit positioning while rigorous canopy management gives us good aeration. The young vines are situated on both clay soils and gravels from the crossroads of the old Waihopai and Wairau Rivers. We harvest the fruit at optimum ripeness - defined by soft ripe tannins, fresh fruit and good level of acidity.

WINEMAKING

This wine was fermented in stainless steel open tops and aged in large French oak vats for 11 months. This balance gives us a Pinot Noir with subtle oak which enriches structure while retaining fruit vibrancy.

TASTING

The nose is full of bright fruit flavors, wild strawberry, cherry and red current, with a slight savory and forest floor aroma. In the mouth the wine shows hints of spicy subtle oak characters, with a nice cherry and raspberry aftertaste. It is juicy on the palate with well-balanced acidity and smooth fine tannins to finish in the mouth. The ageing potential for this wine is between 3-4 years.



CLOS HENRI VINEYARD
Come Taste the Terroir...
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