

innocent bystander



2014 INNOCENT BYSTANDER CENTRAL OTAGO PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER : Phil Sexton & Steve Flamsteed
REGION : Central Otago, New Zealand
VARIETALS : Pinot Noir
MATURATION : 11 months in 100% French oak barriques (10% new)
ANALYSIS : 14.0 % alc/vol | TA: 6.5 g/L | pH: 3.49

VINTAGE :

The 2014 vintage began with a relatively mild winter followed by a warm calm spring, perfect conditions for a short flowering, good fruit set and healthy spring growth. Temperatures nose-dived in January, the coolest in ten years. Conditions in February and March improved and the temperatures were warm and stable. When most of New Zealand was being doused with heavy rain as the end of March and early April, Central Otago remained dry and unusually warm, counteracting the cool January.

VINIFICATION :

Fruit was sourced from vineyards in Wanaka, Lowburn, Bendigo and Queensbury, up and down Central Otago, to achieve perfumed aromatics as well as the characteristic plummy juicy density that typifies this area. 100% hand-picked, the fruit was de-stemmed into small open fermenters with small amounts of whole bunches into the base of each fermenter. All the parcels underwent a pre-fermentation cold maceration for five days followed by fermentation by indigenous yeasts. Racked after 12 months in barrel, for a long slow settling in tank. Bottled without filtration or fining.

TASTING NOTES :

The wine is bright crimson red and has aromas of pomegranates, cranberries, fresh cherries and dark cocoa powder. The palate is dark and brooding with a touch of savory forest undergrowth. A rich tannin structure melts into a velvety mouth feel.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

88 pts - Best Buy Wine & Spirits, 88 pts Wine Spectator

ABOUT INNOCENT BYSTANDER :

Innocent Bystander has forged a reputation for delivering some of the Yarra Valley's most consistent, over-performing, affordable, varietal wines. Using 100% hand-picked fruit and non-intervention winemaking techniques these wines reflect Victoria's cool climate, soil and topography. In 2014, experienced vigneron Phil Sexton extended this philosophy across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand adding two new cool climate regions – Central Otago and Marlborough - to Innocent Bystander's portfolio.



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