

2017 INNOCENT BYSTANDER CENTRAL OTAGO PINOT NOIR



WINEMAKER: Joel Tilbrook
REGION: Central Otago, New Zealand
VARIETALS: Pinot Noir
MATURATION: 11 months in 100% French oak barriques (10% new)
ALCOHOL: 13.5 % alc/vol

VINTAGE: The 2017 growing season got off to a good start with warmer than average temperatures but then a cool and windy January pushed ripening back. Central Otago largely avoided the autumn weather events that affected other regions in New Zealand and the remainder of the growing season was mostly warm and dry. Yields were low but overall quality was high.

WINEMAKING: 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. Using Steve Flamsteed's "Humbug" technique, 20% of the grapes were kept as whole bunches and juice was added to partially submerge those bunches. The fermenters were then covered, immersed with carbon dioxide and left to cold macerate until fermentation by indigenous yeasts began. After fermentation the win spent 11 months in barrel for natural settling and was bottled without filtration or fining.

TASTING NOTES: The 2017 Central Otago Pinot Noir has lively red and blue fruit aromas supported by savory, spicy undertones of clove, nutmeg and thyme. The palate delivers juicy blackberry and cherry flavors with earthy undertones. The wine has a lovely weight and texture with polished, structured tannins and vibrant natural acidity.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: Not yet reviewed. 2016 vintage: 90 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.

