

APRENTIS OF DEVOTUS

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Alcohol	13.0%
Total Acid	4.4 g/L
pH	3.70
Residual Sugar	< 1 g/L

Date Harvested	14-Mar-18
Closure	Screw cap
Bottles Produced	3888

Viticulture

This wine was grown from our youngest 6 to 19 year old vines consisting of Dijon clones (667, 777, 114 & 115) as well as the Abel and Pommard clones. Our vines were non-irrigated. Our farming methods were organic and sustainable. We controlled undervine weeds with mechanical cultivation and grew crops within the vineyard (such as oats, red clover and lupin) to plough back into the soil for organic vine nutrition. The 2017/2018 growing season in Martinborough was unusual, with extreme heat in Dec 17 & Jan 18 followed by a cooler late summer leading up to picking in Mar 18, so accelerated development early on followed by slow ripening after veraison (early Feb 18). Our vines were low yielding (1.9 ton/acre for 2018 vintage).

Vinification

Picking by hand was completed on 14th March 2018 with sugar levels at 23.3°Brix (average across clones). After careful sorting 20% of the whole bunches were included in the ferment. Cold maceration was held at 9°C for 2 days. Fermented with wild yeasts from the vineyard. Peak fermentation temperature was 29°C. Total on skin contact time 11 days. Matured in seasoned French oak barrels for 10 months. No fining. No filtering.

Tasting notes

Deep ruby red colour with depth, lighter on the edge.

On the nose this wine entices with aromas of dark fruit (plums) and red floral notes. There are layers of aromatics consisting of earth, spice and dark cherry. Medium-full bodied, the palate has a core of rich, sweet and luscious red fruit flavours. There are dark herbs, a fine-grained tannin structure with balanced, refreshing acidity.

Overall style is one of low intervention, a pure expression of the 2018 vintage, of the Martinborough Terrace, and particularly of the vineyard.

Cellaring Notes

Very approachable now and can be confidently cellared for at least 5 years (to 2024).

