

KAHIWI

kahiwi

2021

CUVÉE STELLA



VARIETY

100% pinot noir, from a broad spectrum of clones.

VINEYARD SOURCE

Mount Pisa Vineyard, Central Otago. Selected parcels predominantly from clay and loam-based soils.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Our 2021 winemaking approach for Cuvée Stella aimed to articulate the nuanced qualities of each vineyard section through meticulous management of multiple small-batch fermentations. The individual components, primarily from clay-based soils, gradually revealed their resonant and brooding characters during the aging process. Cuvée Stella 2021 embodies the unique expression of our Mount Pisa vineyard's clay-dominant soils. This wine showcases the depth, structure, and complexity characteristic of these soil types, a counterpoint to our schist-derived Cuvée Madeline.

WINEMAKING DETAILS

Our winemaking techniques are simple and gentle to allow for the transfer from soil to wine and to capture the season. Fermentation is natural, either spontaneous or encouraged by use of pied de cuve. Harvest April 6th, bottled 22nd November 2022. Average yield was 4.0 t/ha (ranging from 3.4 to 4.3 t/ha across different parcels). Multiple small-batch fermentations captured precise expressions of each vineyard section. Whole bunch inclusion varied by ferment (0% to 16%, averaging ~13%). Average time on skins was 22 days. Pressing was small batch, either direct to barrel or with one night's settling before barreling down. Malolactic fermentation completed in barrel. Maturation occurred in a combination of French oak barrels and demi-muids (27% new oak).

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Alcohol: 14.4%
pH: 3.71
Total Acidity: 5.7g/L

VINTAGE NOTES

High up slopes, on deep clays and pockets of loam, the vines are broad shouldered with a stoicism belying their sturdy foundations. Vines here can speak for themselves, requiring little coaxing to articulate place and time. On the final day of harvest 2021, this sturdiness was tested when powerful gusts ripped through bird nets and sent empty fermenters rolling through fields.