



2017 MAISON L'ENVOYÉ CENTRAL OTAGO PINOT NOIR



REGION: Central Otago, New Zealand
VARIETALS: Pinot Noir
MATURATION: 9 months in French oak barriques (25% new)
ANALYSIS: 14.1% alc/vol | 3.60 pH | TA: 5.7 g/L

VINTAGE:

Overall, 2017 was a cool, low yielding vintage. Favorable, intermittent rain events and a spot of warm weather in mid-April brought the final stage of ripeness to a close. The Pinot Noir was hand-picked on April 19th.

VINEYARD:

The Tosq Vineyard is tucked into a corner of Central Otago's Pisa District and is farmed organically (certified by Biogro, NZ) by the Thompson family. Here, Pinot Noir is planted on a small glacial terrace, a step up from the valley floor and gently sloping to the north and east. Trellising is VSP, the vines are cane pruned and the soils are principally schist-derived fine sandy loams over gravel. Due to its low fertility, the use of compost and other organic inputs are essential well aligned with Central Otago's dry growing seasons.

WINEMAKING:

Vinified by the famed winemaking team at Giant Steps. The fruit was hand sorted at the winery, 50% was gently crushed while 50% was kept as whole bunches before being transferred to four-ton open fermenters. Fermentation took place using indigenous yeasts with regular drains and returns and when required, occasional punch downs. The wine was pressed into 25% new, 25% second use and 50% seasoned French oak barriques for maturation and malolactic fermentation. After nine months the wine was bottled without fining or filtration.

TASTING NOTES:

This bright and expressive Pinot leads with dark cherry, plum and undertones of thyme characters. Toasted oak notes impart a nice mouthfeel against the generous palate through a long finish. Good now with excellent cellaring potential over the next ten years.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

91 pts - Robert Parker Wine Adocate

ABOUT MAISON L'ENVOYÉ:

Driven by a tireless hunt for elusive sites where Pinot Noir shines, Maison L'Envoyé, 'The House of the Messenger' traverses the globe with the intention of presenting the acme of regionality and winemaking styles. With winemaking footprints in Burgundy, Willamette Valley, Central Otago and Tasmania, we champion many unsung growers who have farmed their vineyards for decades and generations, some mere feet away from more illustriously cited neighbors. This project has been a standout since our debut in 2011 including Wine & Spirits naming Maison L'Envoyé a 'Winery To Watch' in 2015.

