

Blank Canvas,

`Settlement Vineyard` Marlborough Pinot Noir 2021

Marlborough, New Zealand

Blank Canvas
NEW ZEALAND



Grape Varieties	100% Pinot Noir
Winemaker	Matt Thomson
Closure	Stelvin Lux
ABV	13%
Acidity	5.81g/L
Wine pH	3.57
Bottle Sizes	150cl
Notes	Certified Organic, Vegetarian

PRODUCER

Blank Canvas is the vinous studio of award-winning international winemaking consultant Matt Thomson and Master of Wine Sophie Parker-Thomson. With over 40 years of collective experience in the global wine industry, Matt and Sophie produce small batch fine wines from exceptional single vineyard sites throughout New Zealand under their art-meets-science project, Blank Canvas. Matt has worked over fifty vintages in numerous wine regions around the world and has worked with David Gleave since 1994. He is involved with many of the wines in our portfolio, primarily as a consultant. Sophie has been travelling to Europe and working with Matt since 2011, leaving her career in law behind her. It is this international experience that is the founding inspiration for this husband-and-wife team. All vineyards are certified sustainable and all the growers live on their vineyards.

VINEYARDS

The stunning Settlement Vineyard is in the Omaka Valley sub-region of the Southern Valleys. Blank Canvas are entrusted with a small one-hectare parcel of Clone 777 Pinot Noir, a perfumed Dijon clone that delivers naturally small bunches. This hillside block, called the 'Back Block', is north-facing and planted to a high density of 3,788 vines per hectare on wind-blown loess over low vigour clay loams. The vineyard was planted in 2009 and is now Bio-Gro certified and farmed organically. It is cane pruned and VSP trained.

VINTAGE

2021 was a remarkably low-yielding year across all varieties in Marlborough, as cool weather during the flowering period resulted in lighter bunch weights, while late spring frost events meant fewer bunches. However, the warm, dry summer surmounting into drought status for the third year in a row set the smaller crop up for an excellent ripening period. There was zero disease pressure and a record early start date for harvest. The quality and intensity is evident in the small volume of fruit harvested.

VINIFICATION

The low-yielding Settlement Vineyard Pinot Noir was hand-harvested on 19th March 2021. At the winery, two-thirds of the fruit was retained as whole clusters, with the remainder destemmed and layered on top in open fermenters. The fruit was kept cool before fermentation with indigenous yeast began after five days, followed by gentle hand-plunging throughout the 15-day ferment. The wine was then drained and pressed to barrel, where it completed natural malolactic fermentation. Élevage took place over 15 months on lees in low-toast French oak barriques (35% new) from a range of coopers. The wine was bottled unfiltered and unfiltered on 15th June 2022.

TASTING NOTES

This is a classic expression of the Omaka Valley, combining depth, power and structure. It shows black cherry and red and black berry fruit layered with savoury notes of hillside herbs, forest floor and sappy spice. Firm, polished tannins and well-integrated oak provide tension and shape, while whole-bunch fermentation brings freshness and energy. Generous yet built for ageing, the wine promises increasing complexity and tertiary nuance with time in the cellar.

LIBERTY WINES

