

AKITU, CENTRAL OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND

MENTZENDORFF
wine, shipped since
1858

AKITU 'A1' PINOT NOIR

akitu

DETAILS OF PRODUCTION

Established in 2001 and set in the heart of Central Otago's Upper Clutha basin, Akitu's 12-hectare vineyard sits alone at 380 metres above sea level on a stunning north facing slope. The vineyard is entirely dedicated to Pinot Noir, block planted in 6 sections on 250 million year old schist soils; Blocks A and B were planted in 2002 with the remainder the following year. 38% of the fruit is whole bunch pressed with the balance pressed as whole berry. Ageing takes place in French oak of which 15% is new. Atiku 'A1' Pinot Noir consists of 53% Abel, 16% 777, 11.5% 115, 10% Clone 5, 6.5% 667, 3% 114. Harvesting for the 2018 vintage 'A1' took place between 30th March and 6th April 2018 and 'A1' was bottled on 28th March 2019.

TASTING NOTES

Every sense is activated from the first pass, this wine is all about depth and complexity. Spice, wild herbs and brooding plummy fruit emanate from the glass with an airy perfume. Intriguing brown spice rack and graphite infuse with leafy sous bois aromatics. The nose is highly detailed - compact and focused - it should open impressively with time. Very fine and silky entry, plenty of structure over a precise and linear framework. Delicate form with harmonic acidity driving line and length. The balance between fruit, tannin and acid is special and suggests a fascinating voyage ahead. The detail, perfumed aromatics, silk-like texture and subtle persistence define this years A1.

HOW TO SERVE

Compelling now but definitely one for the cellar, 5 to 7 years to the high plateau of evolution. Pairs wonderfully with fowl: big or small, wild or farmed, but duck with potatoes roasted in said bird's fat would be perfect. Salad, as usual, entirely optional.

"Considering the heat of this vintage, this has turned out really well. This is taut and aromatic with fresh, vivid cherry and raspberry fruit. The palate has a lovely energy, showing bright, elegant red and black cherry fruit with a silky texture: there's some finesse and a fine herbal quality sitting under the fruit. There's a lovely fruit quality here, but it blends so beautifully with the more savoury, structural elements. 95 points."

JAMIE GOODE, WINE ANORAK, SEPTEMBER 2020
AKITU A1 PINOT NOIR 2018

www.akitu.wine

VINTAGE 2018
STYLE Red
BLEND OF GRAPES Pinot Noir
WINEMAKER PJ Charteris
ALCOHOL 14.15%

