

tasting notes

SKELETON CREEK Pinot Noir 2013



LOWBURN FERRY

CENTRAL OTAGO

Skeleton Creek was the site of a gold diggers' stopover on the pack track traversing the Pisa Range from Lowburn Ferry to Cardrona in Central Otago, in the late 1800s.

Lowburn Ferry Skeleton Creek Pinot Noir 2013 is dark purple in colour with purple hues. It shows dark fruit on the nose together with red raspberry fruit and hints of cola, leather and spice. Sweet dark cherry fruit on the palate complement savoury notes together with tobacco, leather and smoky char. A mouth-filling wine with dense fine grained tannin and long mineral finish.

Enjoy on its own, or with chicken, duck, lamb, and venison dishes. This wine will continue to develop depth and complexity for 5-7 years.

VINEYARD

Lowburn Ferry Vineyard is planted 100% in pinot noir, an approximately equal mix of clones 115, 5, 667, 777, with a small area of the Abel clone. The vineyard is established on terraces that were in pasture for more than 100 years. The healthy soils have excellent biological activity which enhances the terroir of the site. This wine is blended from the Abel block on Lowburn Ferry with a smaller volume of sustainably grown pinot noir grapes from a nearby vineyard.

VINIFICATION

The fruit (clone Abel) from the Lowburn Ferry vineyard was hand harvested on 19 April 2013 and after it was destemmed into a 4T stainless steel tank, it was inoculated with a selected wine yeast to carry out the fermentation. The wine was aged in French Oak barriques for around 10 months, of which 11% was new oak. This wine was then blended with 2013 Pinot Noir wine made from grapes grown from the Avalon vineyard in Queensbury. This blend is comprised of 58% from the Lowburn Ferry vineyard and 42% from the Avalon vineyard and is approximately 18% new oak.

SEASON

The 2013 vintage in Central Otago was foreshadowed by Jack Frost's chilly visit in spring but thanks to the hot, dry and settled weather which followed, the quality of the grapes – and the vines – was extremely healthy. When the swift spring flowering in 2012 was followed by hot summer weather – particularly in mid-January – the vintage came together, allowing extremely consistent ripening. Clean grapes, relatively riper than usual tannins and healthier canopies at harvest this year all translated to flavour ripeness at lower sugar ripeness. This gave good uniformity to the grapes, which were extremely healthy when picked, due to the dry weather. There was little to no disease pressure leading up to harvest.

Produced & Bottled by: Lowburn Ferry, Central Otago, New Zealand
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www.lowburnferry.co.nz

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TECHNICAL & WINEMAKING NOTES

OAK MATURATION: 10 months, 18% new oak

CLONES: Abel,

HARVEST DATES: 19 April, 2013

HARVEST ANALYSIS: Brix: 24.1

pH: 3.49

TA: 6.6 g/L

BOTTLING DATE: 14 April 2014

WINE ANALYSIS: Alc: 14 %

PACKAGING: 750ml bottles, 6 bottles per pack

BAR CODE: 9421901095116

ABOUT LOWBURN FERRY

Lowburn Ferry is a small, family-owned winery with our vineyards in a sheltered north facing terrace in the Lowburn Valley beneath the Pisa Range in Central Otago. These vineyards started out as glacial terraces and prior to 2000 were in pasture. They now provide healthy soils and are part of a unique terroir ideal for the production of some of New Zealand's finest Pinot Noir. Lowburn Ferry is named after the area surrounding an historic ferry crossing over the Clutha River.

Owners Roger and Jean Gibson have an academic background in soil science and horticulture, and are totally focussed on producing the best pinot noir wine from their special site in the Lowburn Valley – 'great wines are made in the vineyard.'

REVIEWS & ACCOLADES

★★★★★ 58% Abel clone fruit from the 'Lowburn Ferry' vineyard blended with 42% fruit from the 'Avalon' vineyard, Queensberry, the Abel clone aged 10 months in 11% new French oak, the 'Avalon' fruit in 18% new oak, and the wine fermented to 14.0% alc. Full, very dark, deep, purple-hued ruby-red colour, youthful in appearance. The nose is brash and bold with firm and intense aromas of ripe dark raspberry and boysenberry fruits intermixed with black plums, dark herbs and stalky elements. This has power and density to the aromatics. Medium-full bodied, bold and up-front flavours of dark raspberries plums, boysenberries and herbs are underlined by a firm, grainy tannin core and brisk, racy acidity. The mouthfeel is robust and vigorous, and the palate unfolds earth and game nuances with aeration. The structure and acidity carries the wine to a long, granular, dry-textured finish. This is a bold and firmly structured Pinot Noir with dark raspberry fruit and complexing herb and stalky flavours. Match with slow-cooked game meat dishes over the next 5-7 years.

18.5-/20 Sep 2014 Raymond Chan

★★★★★ An impressive pinot noir showing concentration with ripe and appealing plum, dark berry, anise and subtle savoury flavours. It is a bright, high-energy wine with juicy acidity helping to drive a lengthy finish. **96 points, 5 stars: GOURMET TRAVELLER WINE: Jan 2015**

★★★★★ Beautifully fragrant and engaging, the bouquet shows lifted aromas of dark cherry, clove, game and nutmeg with a hint of dried herb complexity. It is concentrated and focused on the palate, and delivers excellent mid palate weight and fine texture, brilliantly structured by loads of polished tannins. The wine is harmonious and integrated, and offers both instant appeal as well as potential to develop graciously. At its best: now to 2022.

94 pts, Sam Kim, Wine Orbit, Nov 2015.

4.5 STARS - Michael Cooper's Buyer's Guide to NZ Wines

RRP: NZ\$45



Available from: selected fine wine retailers or order direct from
Lowburn Ferry Wines: www.lowburnferry.co.nz

