



PINOTAGE 2007

Retail: \$24.90

Sources: Estate Vineyards

60% Home Vineyard - Lower Black Sage Bench

Vines: 5-7 years old

40% Orchard Grove Vineyard- Lower Black Sage Bench

Vines: 9-11 years old

Analysis:

pH: 3.96

Total Acidity: 3.89 g/L

Residual Sugar: 2.0 g/L

Alcohol: 14.4%

Harvest & Production

Harvesting Dates: October 24, October 28

Total Harvest: 10.9 tons

Production: 715 cases

Product Code: +383836

Vintage Notes: 2007

The summer of 2007 was long and consistently warm with few periods of intense heat. This provided ideal conditions for ripening, and the vines were slightly ahead of schedule. A turning of the weather in mid-September brought with it extended periods of cool temperatures and rain, somewhat delaying harvest. This had a silver lining, in that it provided the fruit with a longer period to achieve phenolic ripeness while maintaining good natural acidity. Sugar levels increased slowly and steadily without upsetting the balance of flavour and acid. Harvest finished in the final days of October, with an overall crop yield slightly above average.

Background & Vinification

We took a gamble on Pinotage several years ago when we first planted two acres of it. The grape has impressed us ever since, demonstrating good suitability to our climate and soils. Its flavour profile and performance is such that we consider Okanagan Pinotage to be distinct from its South African counterpart. 2007 brought out the best in the fruit, which showed exciting potential early-on. Unlike our Pinot Noir, a parent of Pinotage, the fruit was fermented more vigorously with frequent punch-downs to maximize phenolic and colour extraction. It was then racked directly from tank to new (55%) and neutral oak barrels. The flavour profile of American oak complements Pinotage very well, however we find that French barrels are essential for building complexity and supporting the distinct earthy character of the wine.

Tasting Notes

Deep red-black in colour, Pinotage is generous in aromas of spiced plums, chocolate and cedar. The palate, soft but rich, presents bright, bold fruit flavours wrapped in fine, intriguing tannins. A lengthy finish includes notes of chocolate and dark fruit.

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