

melville

2020 Estate Pinot Noir - Terraces

Description

The Terraces block sits on a sloped and terraced hillside, with each individual row receiving a direct hit from the cold Pacific Ocean wind. Wrapping around Block M in a “peninsula” shape, the Terraces face varying directions - north, northwest, and due west – cascading down a steep terrain made of clay-rich loam with chunky calcareous shale soil. These facets create several different sun exposures, limited water holding capacity, and when combined with the freezing cold wind, lead to a naturally “devigorized” environment producing intense fruit. Planted in 1997 by Brent Melville and the vineyard crew, this small lot of only 4.9 acres is an interesting combination of two old-school California selections of Mt. Eden and Joseph Swan, plus three Dijon clones (115, 667 and 777). 60% whole cluster.

Highlights

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir
Cases Produced: 670
Soil Type: Clay-rich loam and calcareous shale
Vine age: 24 years old
Clones: Swan, Mount Eden, 115, 667 and 777
Fermentation: 60% whole-cluster
Élevage: Aged in neutral barrel (15+ year old French oak) for 18 months
Bottling date: December 2, 2021
Release date + price: January 2022, \$70

Tasting Notes

A beautiful blue garnet in color, with aromas of spiced cranberry, orange zest and pomegranate dancing from the glass. Grippy tannins and defined acidity come together on the palate evoking flavors of plum compote, clove, and herbal tea. Pure, bright, and clean, Terraces finishes with the grace and elegance you have come to expect.

Scores

95+ points, Jeb Dunnuck
95 points, Antonio Galloni
95 points, Wine Advocate

Scores from previous vintages:
2019 – 95 points
2018 – 95 points
2017 – 94 points

Technical Details

Alcohol: 13.8%
pH: 3.47
Total SO₂: 32 ppm
VA: 0.60 g/L
Glucose + fructose: 1.0 g/L
TA: 6.1 g/L
Free SO₂: 18 ppm