

melville

2021 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: 595
Soil Type: Clay-rich loam and calcareous shale
Vine age: 25 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 1, 2022
Release date + price: January 2023, \$76

Tasting Notes

The elegant and abundant aromatics hit immediately with fresh cooked cranberry sauce, red English rose and dried orange zest. On the palate, the fruit and floral notes are reminiscent of the nose, with an additional layer of black tea, Meyer lemon and that iconic ocean spray found in many past vintages. This wine is tied together perfectly with fine sandy-grain tannins and luscious acidity. Pair Terraces with blackened rock cod tacos or a BLT for an unexpected twist!

Scores

2021 vintage not yet reviewed. Previous vintage scores:

2020 – 95+ points
2019 – 95 points
2018 – 95 points

Technical Details

Alcohol: 13.7%
pH: 3.49
VA: 0.58 g/L
Glucose + fructose: 0.3 g/L
TA: 6.3 g/L
Free SO₂: 14 ppm
Total SO₂: 32ppm