SURVEYOR THOMSON 2014 PINOT NOIR

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This pinot has plenty of complexing flavour and structure...

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Domaine-Thomson 'Surveyor Thomson' Central Otago Pinot Noir 2014 Pinot Noir from Central Otago – **** 5 Stars.

Dark, deep ruby-red colour, a little lighter on the rim. The nose is softly full with a core of savoury aromatic dark-red berry fruits harmoniously entwined with sweet dark and dried herbs, and a subtle layering of undergrowth and game-like complexities. The nose has depth and density unfolding fragrant floral lift with aeration. Medium-full bodied, the palate has rich and sweetly vibranr savoury dark-red fruit flavours along with red florals entwined with soft game, undergrowth and dried herb elements. The flavours are concentrated with good depth and intensity, and underlined by fine, grainy tannin structure providing a refined grip. The acidity is balanced and integrated. The wine flows with energy and vitality, carrying to a long, elegantly concentrated finish with complexing savoury detail. This is a well-concentrated and deeply flavoured Pinot Noir with complex savoury flavours of dark-red berry fruits, dried herbs, undergrowth and hints of game on a fine-structured palate. Serve with casseroles and slow-cooked game meat dishes over the next 6-7+ years. Predominantly clones 5, 667. 6 and 777 with 115, indigenous yeast fermented with 26.5% whole bunches to 13.5% alc., the wine aged 10 months in 20% new French oak.

Raymond Chan

Vintage Summary 2014:

The growing season started off well with good soil moisture left over from winter. A cool start to October stalled growth which then shot away with a dose of rainfall in early November coupled with a really warm spell (it felt like summer had arrived in November). Coupled with a very calm spring from a wind perspective and good temperatures during flowering and fruit set, an excellent crop was set.

Late in December the temperatures cooled down for about 6 weeks until the end of January (one of the coldest on record) but the season picked up some heat in the latter part of summer with a warmer and drier than average autumn.

Harvest kicked off a little earlier than average with first pickings starting on the 1st April and ending mid-May. The overall fruit quality was very good due to the low late season rainfall and our bio-dynamic practises are really coming to the forefront of fruit health and flavour. Our 2014 pinots are showing great promise with deep colour, nice texture and weight, with a refined purity and expression of site.

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