



## PROPHET'S ROCK

### *Reviews: Prophet's Rock 'Home Vineyard' Pinot Noir*

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#### **2014 Vintage**

This has a tightly bound and deep core on the nose with dark-red and black fruits with complexing savoury game aromas from secondary development. Richly fruited on palate, this had depth and density with fulsome extraction and structure. Lovely dark red and black fruits and game notes. Still very age worthy.

**Raymond Chan, Central Otago Pinot Noir New Release Tasting, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

An elegant and charming bouquet of light savoury moments, wild flowers and red berry fruits, a layer of newer oak and related wood spices add depth and complexity. On the palate – fleshy, dry, fruity and tense with youthful yet fine and silky tannins, medium+ acidity and layers of wood spice and brown toasty spice especially vanilla and clove. Lengthy finish, balanced and well made.

**Cameron Douglas, MS (93 Points. March 2017)**

#### **2013 Vintage**

I'm not entirely convinced I'd recognise this as NZ if I tasted it blind. Shy at first on the nose but unfolds to give wonderfully precise aromas of raspberry, redcurrant and a little hint of damson with some lifted, almost peppermint hints too. Very structured, tightly bound but slowly evolves to reveal a core of fruit nestled amongst the tannins, which are firm but perfectly in balance. This needs time but will reward those with patient handsomely.

**TEXSOM Wine Awards, Independent Wine Monthly, January 2018**

A second Gold for Otago Pinot, this was 'delicate, with fresh plums and cherry fruit on the nose – well integrated with high quality oak', began team leader Annette Scarfe MW, who was impressed with its 'textured and structured palate and great length on the finish'. Winexponent's Simon Cassina advised: 'It's worth the effort to decant this wine, with its high-extraction, low-yield concentration and premium style. I'd be happy to buy a case!' A similarly enthusiastic Stamatis Iseris of The Strathearn at The Gleneagles Hotel added: 'Elegant and rich, it explodes on the palate with sweet red fruits, spices, red roses and herbs. Match with venison or duck.'

**[Sommelier Wine Awards UK](#), GOLD MEDAL, £26.04, Bibendum Wine**

There's much less extraction this year, a new direction Paul Pujol is taking. Beautifully aromatic, this is savoury and textural with spice and minerals, as well as nice red cherry fruit. Good acidity with some raspberry freshness. Nice concentration and grip, yet also silky and fine: This is superb. 95/100

**IPNC – The Non-Oregon Pinot Noir's, Jamie Goode, UK Wine Writer, October 2017**

Selected for **Metro Magazine's Top 50 Wines Autumn/ Winter 2017**

100% destemmed and grown on a glacial terrace of chalk and lime. Really pretty with notes of wild cherry and cherry bark and light forest accents this wine offers richer complex scents that carry from the nose then lifted through the palate. The palate offers pleasing density while still feeling delicate with deep red violet fruits sprinkled through with spice and a savory element through a long finish. Supple, lightly tactile tannin comes in with balancing acidity for a nice sense of delicacy and persistent



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#### **Elaine Brown. Waka Waka Wine Reviews (January 2017)**

Paul Pujol made five small tanks of this wine. One got no pumpovers or plunging, and had no stems. The rest got one hand plunge, and were in tank for 28-32 days, and again, no stems were used. Lovely aromatics: fresh red cherries, fine herbs, a touch of cedar. The palate is structured and quite firm with good tannins and lovely purity. Very fresh with a bit of tannic bite under the sweet fruit. Lovely focus to this wine.

#### **Jamie Goode, Wine Anorak (95/100. January 2017)**

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#### **Hawk Wakawaka Wine Reviews (January 2017)**

This consistently rewarding red is estate-grown at a high altitude site at Bendigo, in the Cromwell Basin. Barrel-aged for 17 months (35 per cent new oak) and bottled unfiltered, the 2013 vintage is the first to be labelled 'Home Vineyard'. Fragrant and deeply coloured, it is mouthfilling, vibrant and savoury, with concentrated, ripe plum, cherry and spice flavours, showing good complexity. Already delicious, it's a drink-now or cellaring proposition.

#### **Michael Coopers Buyers Guide 2017 (4.5 stars. December 2016)**

Elegant, sophisticated and ripe with a generous bundle of red fruit aromas, firm and poignant use of new oak; plenty of mineral moments and overall complex bouquet. On the palate – equally sophisticated, ripe and flavourful; no mistaking the oak or mineral or acidity – collectively showing great potential and cellar-ability. Long even and concentrated finish.

#### **Cameron Douglas MS (95 Points. March 2016)**

Prophet's Rock is only just releasing its 2013 pinot, given it spends longer than most maturing in barrel and then bottle. It's a harmonious wine with ripe, supple and concentrated Morello cherry fruit and notes of earth, spice & mineral

#### **Jo Burzynska, NZ Herald February 2016**

Quiet a dense and perfumed Pinot Noir, velvet textured and vibrant wine, with an appealing mix of ripe red fruits and subtle spices. Should age well

Rated # 5 of 105 Pinot Noir's tasted from Central Otago 2013 vintage

#### **Bob Campbell, Wine 360 (95, 5 stars, Gold Ribbon. May 2015)**

#### **Ranked 5/107 2013 Vintage Central Otago Pinot Noirs**

Paul's Pinot Noirs are a bit different. The extraction is very light: just one hand plunge and no whole bunch, and then around 17 months in barrel with no racking. We tried 2013, 2010 and 2007, and all



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were quite lovely, especially the first two. These are proper wines with lovely acidity, structure and presence. Fine, textural wines that are among the best in the region

**Jamie Goode (January 2016)**

Beautifully styled as always, the lifted bouquet shows dark berry, savoury mushroom, cured meat and clove notes. It is intense and concentrated on the palate with excellent fruit ripeness and silky texture, brilliantly structured by bright acidity and fine, delicately drying tannins. Poise, elegance, complexity and power, all in one. At its best: now to 2023.

**Wine Orbit (95 points / 5 stars. March 2016)**

Deepish ruby-red colour with a suggestion of garnet. This has a firm and tight core on the nose with aromas of savoury red berry fruits harmoniously melded with subtle notes of thyme herbs, earth and undergrowth, unfolding red floral elements. Medium-full bodied, the palate features rich and luscious, vibrant and juicy, complex flavours of savoury red berry fruits entwined with red florals, dried herbs, nuances of earth and minerals and undergrowth. The fruit richness is supported by very fine-grained tannin extraction that provides good structure and grip, as well as linearity. Poised acidity lends tension and energy, driving the palate to a long and sustained finish of red fruits and earth. This is a serious, fine-structured, sweet red-fruited Pinot Noir with complex flavours and a lively mouthfeel and line. It will match game meat and casseroles over the next 6-8+ years. Clones 5, 777, 667, 114, 115 and a small portion of clone 6, from the 'Home' vineyard on clay and chalk soils, fully destemmed and indigenous yeast fermented to 13.5% alc., the wine undergoing minimal extraction with one hand plunging and two short pump overs, and aged 17 months in 35% new French oak.

**Raymond Chan (Score: 5 stars. April 2016)**

#### **2013 Vintage Awards**

TexSom International Wine Awards 2016 Silver Medal

#### **2012 Vintage**

Lovely Pinot Noir with an appealing, perfumed aroma of ripe cherry, plum and a suggestion of violets (thyme?). Lovely structure, with an emphasis on fruit rather than savoury characters. Very elegant wine indeed

Rate # 4 of 115 Pinot Noir's tasted from Central Otago 2012 vintage

**Bob Campbell, Wine 360 (96, 5 stars, Gold Ribbon. May 2015)**

Bright, juicy plum and black cherry notes form the core, with hints of sandalwood and red licorice, all supported by thick tannins. Tangy acidity keeps the flavors fresh and bright. The tannins turn chewy on the finish, with a mineral note. Drink now through 2030

**Wine Spectator (Score: 88/100. September 2015)**

Elegant nose of black and red fruits, good spices and oak level on a very well-balanced palate with a good, long finish,' said Carlos Ferreira of The Sign of the Don, while team leader Sam Caporn MW added: 'Lovely fragrance, balance and structure. Tasty.'

**Sommelier Wine Awards 2016 (Silver Medal April 2016)**

PROPHET'S ROCK WINES LIMITED

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**2012 Vintage Awards**

TexSom

Sommelier Wine Awards 2016

International Wine Awards 2016

Gold Medal

Silver Medal

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#### **2011 Vintage**

The 2011 vintage (4.5\*) was estate-grown at a high-altitude site at Bendigo, in the Cromwell Basin, hand-harvested, fermented with indigenous yeasts, and matured for 17 months in French oak barriques (35 per cent new). Full and bright in colour, it is mouthfilling and savoury, with strong plum/spice flavours, showing very good complexity, hints of dried herbs and nuts, good tannin backbone, and obvious cellaring potential. Best drinking 2016+.

**Michael Cooper's Buyers Guide 2015 (November 2014)**

Rich and powerful style. This is a big bugger - very spicy and masculine. The alcohol is a little warm, and the acid is firm, leaving a rather tight finish.

**Rebecca Gibb, MW (Score - 17/20. April 2015)**

#### **2010 Vintage**

Good medium red. Ripe aromas of black cherry, mocha and chocolate are complicated by an herbal nuance. Sweet and juicy in the mouth, with a dusty, fine-grained texture to the dark cherry, spice and herb flavors. Finishes savory and spicy, with good energy and a repeating herbal quality.

**Steve Tanzer's International Wine Cellar (Score 88. Issue 176 September - October 2014)**

The 2010 vintage (5\*) was estate-grown at a high-altitude site at Bendigo, in the Cromwell Basin, hand-harvested, fermented with indigenous yeasts, and matured for 16 months in French oak barriques. Concentrated, savoury and firmly structured, it is deeply coloured, with strong, youthful cherry, plum, spice and nut flavours, showing good complexity, and obvious potential. Open 2014+

**Michael Cooper.co.nz (5 stars)**

Very full, very dark, black-hued red with youthful purple hues. The bouquet is very full and solidly packed, unfolding interwoven layers of black and dark red berry fruits, with floral perfumes and a subtle dried herb and savoury, gamey underlay suggesting whole clusters. Full-bodied, the fruit is initially restrained, but blossoms to show an array of ripe, dark red and black berry fruits intermixed with black cherries and plums, along with dried herbs and savoury game nuances. This is fulsome, weighty and mouthfilling, with a smooth, integrated mouthfeel and texture. The tannins are very fine-grained and supple, but there is significant extract and structure. The fruit sweetness prevails and carries the palate to a long, succulently sweet finish. This is a fulsome and solid wine with integrated black fruit flavours and mouthfeel.

**Raymond Chan Independent Reviews (Score 18.5/20, 5 Stars. March 2014)**

A high terrace at 400 m. This vineyard has a lens of chalk, which is actually pedogenic lime, with minerals in the rain accumulated in the soil by evaporation. Ripe and fresh with lovely supple cherry fruit. Quite an elegant style: supple and alive, showing finesse and a lightness of touch. 94/100

**Jamie Goode's selection of the best New Zealand Pinot Noirs/ Wine Anorak (Score 94/100)**



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#### **2009 Vintage**

Beautiful pale Pinot that is ageing fabulously. Fine red cherries with some dried herbs and good structure and acid here.

**Jamie Goode, Wine Anorak (94/100. February 2017)**

The 2009 vintage was estate-grown at Bendigo, in the Cromwell Basin, hand-picked, fermented with indigenous yeasts, and matured for 18 months in French oak barriques (35 per cent new.) Ruby hued, it is sweet-fruited and supple, with moderately concentrated cherry and spice flavours, showing good, savoury complexity, and a deliciously soft texture. Drink now or cellar.

**Michael Cooper's Buyer's Guide to NZ Wines 2012 (5 stars)**

From Bendigo on a pocket of clay and chalk soil. Fine-boned and attractively perfumed Pinot Noir with restrained cherry, mineral, floral and spice. Surprisingly powerful for a wine that doesn't have an enormously deep colour. Supple, elegant wine with a silken texture

**Bob Campbell, MW (Score – 90/100. September 2011)**

#### **2007 Vintage**

From a small cropping vintage in Central Otago, this also shows that concentration and presence combined with Prophet Rock's typical elegance. The bouquet is fragrant and complex displaying game, spice, red/black cherry and floral characters. It's finely textured on the palate with superb ripeness and generosity, leading to a long velvety finish. It's opulent and powerful, yet firmly structured. At its best: now to 2018

**Wine Orbit (Score - 95/100, 5 stars. October 2011)**

Lovely cedary complexity, masses of fruit and a little more finesse than the 2006. Balanced and deliciously moreish on the palate, the fruit has a much more sinewy, elegantly muscular character and lovely length.

**Wine-pages.com (Score - 92/100)**

#### **2006 Vintage**

Medium to deep ruby colour. Profound nose of violets, moss, cooked beets and dark chocolate covered cherries. The palate is elegant, crisp and complex with a mineral, savoury character supported by a medium level of finely grained tannis. Very long finish.

**Erobertparker.com (Score 93/100. Tasted October 2008)**

Big, sweet, cedary nose with lots of herbs and spices. The palate has loads of substance, with plenty of extract and spice and loads of firm, solid fruit. Big but delicious

**Wine-pages.com (Score - 91/100)**