



## PISA RANGE ESTATE

While many argue the best wine is made in the vineyard, it is also due to the skill of the winemaker.

Rudi Bauer needs little introduction. Acknowledged as one of New Zealand's top Pinot Noir winemakers, he has been making pinot noir from Pisa Range Estate grapes at his Quartz Reef winery since the vineyard started its first small production in 1998.

The Pisa Range Estate label was launched with the 2000 vintage. The emphasis is on producing an "Estate" wine - a wine that truly reflects the site and "terroir". As a result the winemaker is involved all the way along the 'vine to wine' chain.

Together with Viticulture Manager Ian Cunliffe decisions are made on canopy management and bunch thinning to ensure the best possible fruit is brought into the winery at harvest.

Traditional gentle handling of the fruit is practiced in the winery with some whole bunch pressing. Clones are barrelled separately in French oak barriques (one-third new) for twelve months.

The wine is left in the bottle for a further twelve months prior to release.

### View of the Pisa Range Mountains from the vineyard.



# PISA RANGE ESTATE

## Central Otago, New Zealand

Pisa Range Estate is a family-owned boutique vineyard established in 1995 by Warwick & Jenny Hawker. It was a narrow twelve hectare block of sheep grazing land - lined with Lombardy and grand old Black Poplar trees nestled at the base of the snow-capped Pisa Range Central Otago. The remnants of an old apricot orchard still remain.

Planting began in 1995 as pioneer grape-growers of the Pisa sub-region under the guidance of the late Mike Wolter (a pioneer of the wine industry in Central Otago) who acted as Consultant and Vineyard Manager. An early decision was made to specialise in a single variety - Pinot Noir - and to put every effort into doing it well.



Warwick & Jenny Hawker

In 1996 they purchased a further twenty-one hectares – a group of warm terraces rising up from the flat at the base of the Pisa Range. This brought the total land holdings to thirty-three hectares providing scope for future expansion.

Currently four hectares are planted in a variety of pinot noir clones – including some of the new Burgundy clones. Viticulture practices reflect the emphasis on striving for quality to ensure the very best fruit is brought into the winery. These include close vine spacing, careful clonal selection, maintaining low crop yields (around 5 tonne per hectare) and hand-harvesting. The guiding principle in the management of the land is 'minimal intervention' – the aim is for the wine to express its 'sense of place'. As members of Sustainable Winegrowing NZ and Bio-dynamic Assoc. of NZ, there is a commitment to moving towards organic and bio-dynamic practices in the vineyard.

As the southern most winegrowing region in the world, Central Otago has more of a continental climate than any other wine region in New Zealand. The hot dry summers, cold winters and long cool autumns provide the ideal conditions for this notoriously fickle grape. The large diurnal temperature variation - the difference between daytime and night-time temperatures - contributes to flavour intensity and depth of colour. Each season is monitored closely together with the wine this site produces in an effort to understand the "terroir".

The Pisa district has one of the warmest microclimates of the Cromwell Basin, consistently combining hot days, cool nights and long autumns – perfect conditions for the production of fine pinot noir.

Pisa Range Estate has been producing under its own label since 2000, consistently achieving local and international success for its 'Black Poplar Block' Pinot Noir, named for the two grand 80 year old Black Poplar trees dominating the vineyard. The wine is made under contract by winemaker Rudi Bauer at his Quartz Reef winery. Larry McKenna (Escarpment Vineyard) also acts as a consultant.

The quality of the wine will continue to increase as further vine age impacts. Future development plans include planting the terraces that fan out at the base of the Pisa Range - producing a pinot noir with the "Central Terraces Block"® designation.

