Little Beauty Black Edition Pinot Gris



Varietal mix:	100% Pinot Gris
Vintage:	2014
Site location:	Single Vineyard, Waihopai Valley, Marlborough. Sub-region: 'Southern Valleys'.
Site features:	Discrete, characterful. The Pinot Gris is grown on river terraces containing stony silt loam soils with fine sandy loam topsoil and gravels over alluvial gravels. Considerable stone is evident in the topsoil profile. Sustainably accredited by New Zealand Winegrowers.
Clones:	2 / 15 (origin: Geisenheim Germany).
Canopy:	North-south facing rows. The trellis system used is Vertical Shoot Positioning (VSP).
Viticulture:	The crop is colour thinned at veraison and leaf plucked to attain full ripeness. The bronze/copper-coloured bunches are on a 2 cane VSP trellis system and are hand harvested only when showing full physiological ripeness.
Style Summary:	The 2014 Black Edition Pinot Gris is hand harvested; whole bunch pressed, and barrel fermented, the ferment being conducted by 100% natural yeast. Some time on lees results in a rich and complex yet dry style with lovely complexity and superb length of flavour.
Winemaker:	Eveline Fraser.
Oenology:	The bins of hand harvested fruit were loaded into a tank press and whole bunch pressed to avoid extracting the natural phenolics the variety carries. Free run juice was enzyme settled before being racked into old white barrels for a natural ferment. The wine remained on ferment lees in barrel for a period. Barrels used were all Burgundy cooperages: Cadus, Mercurey and Francois Freres and ranged in age from 10 to 20 years old. The goal is for the Oak to be subtle, but supportive.
Colour & Aroma:	The 2014 Black Edition Pinot Gris is now straw gold in colour. The aroma is reminiscent of caramelised apricot, warm figs, grilled hazelnuts and slow roasted quince. Hint of caramelised brown sugar scorched to grilled apricots or peach. Crème brûlée. Honeycomb or salted caramel.
Palate:	The palate is rich and slightly oily. Characters might remind you of toffee, baked peach, crème caramel, lanolin, caramelised almond, Danish pastry, plus something earthy like truffle. There's spice like cardamon or caraway. The kernel type flavours give a serious line to the palate, which finishes rounded and opulent, but still dry. Some minerality is also present. Beautifully harmonious. Textured. A journey in the glass (especially in a Riedel 'Wine Wings' Riesling glass). The bottle age of this wine is unusual. It proves Little Beauty can produce stylish wines that are built age gracefully. Well suited for lovers of wine and food.
RS:	3.5 g/l
Alc:	13.0%
TA:	5.1 g/l
Accolades & Ratings:	TROPHY Winner Mundus Vini International Wine Awards 2023 – Best of Show New Zealand White Wine. 94 POINTS James Suckling. DOUBLE GOLD Sakura International Wine Awards.

Tasting note updated 01 February 2025