

Wine Orbit

Extensive Wine Review by Senior Wine Judge, Sam Kim

36 Bottles Pinot Gris 2008

Central Otago **91 4.5 Stars**

This is a very exciting new label by Douglas Brett and an enthusiastic team. The name comes from the very first 36 bottles they produced back in 1999. Now they have released first commercial release with Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir. A portion of the grapes were whole bunch pressed and the other crushed and left on skin for 24 hours prior to fermentation. The nose beautifully elegant and gently perfumed showing peach, pear and floral characters. It's nicely weighted on the palate with silky texture and just the right amount of acid to balance the subtle sweetness. A serious Pinot Gris showing excellent varietal expression and the wine is superbly drinkable. At its best: now to 2011. \$27.00 14% Screw cap. Winemakers: Sara-Kate and Dan Dineen.

36 Bottles Pinot Noir

Central Otago **92 4.5 Stars**

Grapes were destemmed and fermented in open-top fermenters with regular hand plunging. The finished wine was then matured in new and older French oak barriques for 9 months. Ripe and opulent, this immediately appealing Pinot displays dark cherry, savoury mushroom and subtle spice characters on the nose. The palate is juicy upfront with satin smooth texture, nicely pitched acidity and fine-grained tannins. The wine is rich and sumptuous yet remains elegant and beautifully poised. At its best: now to 2012. \$36.00 14% Screw cap.

Ratings

| 5 Stars | 100 pts | |
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| 5 | 96 - 100 | Exceptional quality exhibiting highest level of concentration and complexity. |
| 5 | 93 - 95 | Outstanding quality showing varietal purity and exemplifying regional type. |
| 4.5 | 89 - 92 | Excellent quality showing high level of concentration and balance. |
| 4 | 85 - 88 | Very good quality displaying attractive flavours and good balance. |
| 3.5 | 81 - 84 | Good quality, easy drinking with straightforward flavours. |
| 3 | 78 - 80 | Sound quality, pleasant and satisfactory. |
| Not all wines tasted by Wine Orbit are published including those rated below 3 stars. | | |