

KUMEU RIVER



2024 RAYS ROAD PINOT NOIR, HAWKE'S BAY

WINERY

Family owned and operated since 1944 by the Brajkovich family, Kumeu River was one of the early pioneers in Auckland, New Zealand and helped establish its reputation as a world-class wine region. Kumeu River has gone on to become a globally recognized, benchmark producer of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

WINE

The Pinot Noir at Rays Road was planted by the previous owners of the site in 2008 with a variety of superior clones. The winery has identified a small section of this vineyard which shows distinct character and consistent high quality fruit, and dedicated it solely to the production of the Rays Road bottling. This is the winery's only single vineyard Pinot Noir.

VINEYARDS

The vineyard in Rays Road, Raukawa was established as a joint venture between Trinity Hill and Pascal Jolivet from Sancerre, France. Kumeu River purchased the vineyard in full in 2017. Rays Road Vineyard sits on a north facing limestone hillside at 180 metres, a rare elevated site in Hawke's Bay. The cooler, later ripening conditions deliver natural freshness, while limestone soils add mineral tension and dry farming keeps yields naturally low.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2024 season in Hawke's Bay was excellent and began with even budburst and ideal conditions, though a brief cold, wet spell during flowering reduced yields. Warm, dry weather followed, with temperatures staying below 84°F, allowing steady ripening and great flavor development. Harvest ran smoothly from February 8 to March 16, with minimal rain and pristine, hand-picked fruit, delivering excellent quality.

WINEMAKING

Fruit is hand harvested, 100% destemmed and then crushed. The wine undergoes indigenous yeast fermentation and cuvaion takes 2-3 weeks. After malolactic fermentation is complete, the wine is then matured for 12 months in French oak (10% new).

TASTING NOTES

Rays Road Pinot Noir is bright and fragrant with ripe cherry and other red-fruit aromas. There is also a distinctive dry leaf quality which contributes to the complexity. The palate is supple, deceptively concentrated with a distinctive limestone edge. It is approachable now, and have no doubt that this complex wine will enhance further with bottle age.

VINEYARD

Region:	New Zealand
Appellation:	Hawkes Bay
Soil:	Limestone
Age:	Planted in 2008
Eco-Practices:	Sustainable; Vegan
Clones:	MV6, Abel, 116, 828, 935, 943
Vineyard Size:	4HA (9.88 acres) of Pinot Noir
Elevation:	180 meters (590 feet)
Trellis:	VSP 2.2m x 1.5m

WINEMAKING

Varietals:	100% Pinot Noir
Aging:	This wine was matured for 11 months in French Oak; 10% new

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Yeast:	Indigenous
Alcohol:	13%