



### Harvest Specifications

Harvest Date	Brix	Titrateable Acidity g/L	pH
Oct 12	21.4°	7.7	3.39

### Wine Analysis

Variety	Alcohol %vol.	Titrateable Acidity g/L	pH	Residual Sugar g/L	Production
Pinot Noir	12.8%	6.4	3.68	<2.0 g/L	181 cases

The 2021 growing season was warm through the spring and summer but these ideal conditions led into a rainy autumn. This is not what we hope for, but good viticulture and well-drained soils can and did allow for healthy and fully ripened grapes that created wines with fulsome texture and balanced acidity. The Pinot Noir for this wine was hand-picked from the established Cuesta vineyard located just east of Vineland – exactly across the road and up the hill from the winemaker, Ron Giesbrecht’s, family home in Vineland since 1968. As with most of our wines, there is usually a ‘Wending Home’ link to Ron’s past haunts and relationships. Currently, Cuesta is farmed by the Wismer brothers – Glen Elgin Vineyards. The Pinot Noir clone planted here is the Dijon 777 clone and vines were planted over 25 years ago. Soils are well-drained and lighter texture silty soils – at least lighter than most Bench vineyard sites, with a healthy limestone component brought down by glaciers and erosion from the nearby exposed rocks of the escarpment over millennia.

With these soils, slopes, and beautiful drainage on 3 sides, the Cuesta (co-designated by us as “Up Above”) site produces Pinot Noir with grace, and complexity, but don’t expect too subtle of a wine. It is a forward and cherry-driven fruit nose that then extends to a vibrant palate of raspberry, dried herbs, and medium acidity. the length of the finish shows up as stony, spicy, and lifted florals lingering on the palate for minutes. Please take this wine on a journey of aging by revisiting it over the next 5 to 8 years because it will continue to evolve and create a little bit of new wonder and added rewards every time.

The designation of “Up Above” is a whimsical nod to youthful memories of Ron’s many hours and in fact days at a time spent on this land. It was a simple way that Ron’s family indicated where they would be. Going “Up Above” was across the road and up the hill. The family often walked there and did so much more. “Down Below” indicated going down into the creek valley that was next to the home, also a favourite place to be, where the vegetable garden was tended. Ron’s father resided there alone after mother died in 1999, and until almost at age 94 – a testament to the strong hold that these environs have on the family.

“Up above” there is a pond graced with a surrounding mature forest of beech, maple, hemlock, pine, and oak. Here was a place where Ron would spend – wasting time – having fun – and being in nature. In winter – skating and playing shinny on the pond with neighbourhood friends, and tobogganing on the hill - in spring, summer and fall – camping in the forest edging the pond, and fishing (once catching a memorable northern pike!). The unkept remnants of the old peach, cherry, apple, pear, and quince orchards were gleaned when the fruit wasn’t not too wormy. There was a house “up above” – very old and dilapidated but it was home to an old friend, Eugene, who daily carried his water in a kettle from a nearby spring, and who’s home Ron’s family visited at Christmas for a number of years. Family and neighbours called Eugene ‘the hermit’ but he was a very fine old gent who immigrated to Canada from Romania.

These are some of the memories that make this a very place special for Ron and we believe – translate into being a part of the secret ingredient that is terroir. It is that personal connection to this ancient and beautiful spot, carved by glaciers and water, evolving into the site that the Wismer’s now grow these Pinot Noir vines on, and that we select the grapes from to make a very terroir focused wine to share with you. Raise a glass “up above”!