VINO FINO
Explore a World of Wine

BLANK CANVAS UPTON DOWNS PINOT NOIR 2023





$74.99

Product Code:	32026
Country:	New Zealand
Region:	Marlborough
Sub Region:	Southern Valleys
Style:	Red
Variety:	Pinot Noir

Closure:	Screw Cap
Unit:	Each
Alcohol:	13.0%
Grape:	100% Pinot Noir

New Zealand Wide Delivery

Free Shipping for Christchurch orders $150.00 and over

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TASTING NOTES

Winery notes (2023 Vintage)
"The Upton Downs delivers a Pinot Noir of beguiling poise and perfume, born of high altitude exposure, a cool dry microclimate and the layered, complex soils of the Upper Awatere.

The bouquet opens with lifted violet and wild red berry aromas threaded with rose petal and subtle forest floor. On the palate it is elegant yet firmly structured, where silky tannins and bright acidity frame concentrated cherry, pomegranate and savoury spice, while careful whole-bunch inclusion add lift and tensile energy. The finish is long, mineral and compelling, promising early pleasure and confident ageworthiness.

We hand-picked our small parcel of the remote Upton Downs Vineyard on Easter Sunday, which was a family affair. Once at the winery we tipped 40% as whole clusters into an open-top fermenter and crushed the balance over the top. The fruit underwent a 6-day cold soak before naturally kicking off fermentation. Handplunging during the 15-day fermentation period was followed by draining the free-run wine and pressing the remaining wine all to French oak barriques (35% new) where it matured for 11 months, undergoing natural malolactic fermentation. A further 4 months on light lees in small tank allowed the wine to come together, gently settling over time before being bottled without filtration in the winter following harvest. "

5 Stars & 96/100 Bob Campbell MW, The Real Review (2023 Vintage)
"Elegant, gentle wine with surprising power and flavours suggesting raspberry sherbet dab, red rose petal that linger

tantalisingly on a lengthy finish. Charming pinot noir that should put a smile on every pinot noir lover’s face."

5 Stars & 96/100 Stephen Wong MW, The Real Review (2023 Vintage)
"Bright ruby. A distinctive nose of tomato stalk, flint smoke and pomace suggesting whole bunch and/or site expression. With persistent coaxing, measured vanilla and cinnamon oak rises to the fore, followed by sweet roses, bramble and wild raspberry. The light-weight palate is equally restrained, tightly framed by sleek, coffee-ish tannins and driving acidity which facilitates incredible length, eventually revealing a crystalline heart of red, floral fruit. Despite its reticence and deceptively quiet expression, this is undeniably classy, elegant and intricate. It just needs time to unfold."

Rated Outstanding & 96/100 Cameron Douglas MS, July 2025 (2023 Vintage)
"A wine of intensity and tension, texture and length. Aromas and flavours of red berries and charry flesh, dusty clay soils and gentle savoury spice layers. The palate show the same yet with an elegant and charming personality and poise. The tannins and acidity delivery and drive and power framing the fruit that perfectly showing a softer plush plate layer. Lengthy and delicious. Even better on days 3 and 4. A wine worth your time and attention with best drinking from 2029 through 2036+."

95/100 Susie Barrie MW & Peter Richards MW (UK), Susie & Peter New Zealand Wines of the Year 2026 (2023 Vintage)
"This Upton Downs is sourced from over the hills in inland Awatere, where the dry, cool climate, complex soils and Dijon 777 clone give a wine style that’s pale and perfumed, with a vibrant freshness and lift. There’s an intriguing earthy, gamey, dusty character here, with dried herbs and pomegranate seed. It’s definitely on the lighter end of the spectrum – more Volnay than Gevrey, if you will – but with an upbeat vibrancy and drinkability that speaks very much of Awatere."

95/100 Shanteh Wale, WinePilot.com (2023 Vintage)
"Upton Downs vineyard is located in the elevated Upper Awatere Valley. All Dijon clone 777 planted in 2003. 40% whole cluster pressed to French oak barriques (35% new) for 11 months. A light shade of garnet to the hue. This has macerated morello cherry expression to the aromas, with some smoked paprika spice, rooibos tea and turned brown earth. This is centred in red berries, with the meaty side of oak clinging to the sides. Bright acidity and fine, sandy tannins. A peppery meat- and tomato-based dish would work nicely alongside it."

94/100 Erin Larkin, RobertParker.com, Wine Advocate, April 2026 (2023 Vintage)
"The 2023 Upton Downs Vineyard Pinot Noir is light in the glass and leads with spiced strawberry, star anise, freshly grated nutmeg, red apple skins and pomegranate molasses. The tannins in the mouth are spicy and layered with coffee grounds, blood orange and exotic spices. This is very fine in the glass but has all the hallmarks of a wine that will age extraordinarily well. It's fresh, lacy and fine."

CONTACT VINO FINO

Phone: 03 365 5134
https://vinofino.co.nz

OPEN HOURS

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188 Durham St South,
Christchurch

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