



## Blank Canvas Anthem Vineyard Pinot Noir 2019

**Subregion:** Gibbston Valley

**Region:** Central Otago

**Soil Type:** Schist derived, windblown alluvial loess

**Viticulture:** Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand Certified (SWNZ)

**Growers/Manager:** Dave Henderson / Jase Thomson

### ***Winemaker's Notes:***

The incredibly picturesque Anthem Vineyard in the Gibbston Valley is proving itself. It delivers riveting floral aromatics, elegance and velveteen tannins year after year. We think it's one of the most special sites in Central and this vintage continues with its theme of serious savouriness and class.

2019 was what we'd all refer to as a more classic vintage in Central Otago, a respite from the almost oppressive heat of 2018, with the much expected chilly nights but hot days allowing Pinot Noir to thrive in the diurnal range. Wild fermentation, 50% whole-cluster inclusion and a low-toast oak regime gives elegance, complexity and structure to the wine. Maintaining our minimalist philosophy, we bottle without filtration which means nothing is taken away though a natural deposit will occur over time.

### ***Reviews:***

**2019 Vintage: 95 Points - Outstanding** "Fabulous bouquet of delicacy and perfume, complexity and charm. Aromas of pressed roses and cherry flesh, there's a fine savoury quality layering finesse and detail. Oak offers moments of spice and sweetness. On the palate - delicious, layers of texture and finesse with flavours to reflect the variety and complexity with strawberry and cherry, red apple and spice. Perfectly balanced with a fine chalky mouthfeel, fine tannins and medium+ acid line. Best drinking from 2023 through 2027+." **Cameron Douglas MS**

**95 Points** - Elegant, fine-textured pinot noir with fine herbs, mixed spice and hedgerow aromas. High energy wine with a seamless texture. Nicely structured with fruit/alcohol sweetness balanced against fine, drying tannins. 20/12/2022 **Bob Campbell MW**

## 2018 Vintage:

**18.5 Points (#1 NZ Pinot Noir 2018)** "Mid smudgy cherry red and already showing some development in the colour with a soft pink rim. Aroma of succulent but tart red cherry and a hint of orange and just very slightly smoky to add further complexity. Lifts beautifully from the glass: scented, inviting. Classic freshness of this cool, late-ripening subregion but it is fully ripe. Intense purity of fruit here, the whole-bunch component in the background and just adding further freshness and a lovely, subtle herbal aspect. Tannins are super-fine, almost chalky, then silky on the day after opening. Great length, and tastes much younger than the colour might have suggested. Vibrant, refined, daringly light and dry and yet with great substance, persistence and tenderness. Confirms my love of the best Gibbston wines." Julia Harding MW | [JancisRobinson.com](https://www.jancisrobinson.com) 27/01/2022

**95 Points - Outstanding.** "Ripe, intense, richly scented, varietal and fruity bouquet with aromas of ripe dark cherries and plums. There's a definitive dried herb, savoury complexity - classic Otago message - then aromas of smoky oak with a quiet clove baking spice suggestion. All the action for this wine is on the palate - it's delicious with a detailed story of spices and fruits, textures and length, concentration and a sense of place. Tannins are fine and polished, oak has a nut-like quality alongside the toast-wood. The core of fruit finishes with a floral note - a *flick* forming part of a lengthy youthful finish. Fabulous drinking now and through 2026+. Definitely a wine of discussion." [Cameron Douglas MS](#) 22/08/2020

**5 Stars \*\*\*\*\*** "Drinking well now, but still unfolding, the 2018 vintage (5\*) is a single-vineyard red, hand-harvested from 19-year-old vines at Gibbston and matured for a year in French oak casks (34 per cent new). Ruby hued, it is floral and supple, in an intensely varietal style with generous, cherryish, slightly nutty flavours, a hint of herbs, fresh acidity, and excellent complexity and harmony." **Michael Cooper**, June 2022

**94 Points** "Elegant, supple pinot noir with floral, dark cherry, five spice and grape stem flavours. A surprisingly approachable wine with restrained power. It should develop well." **Bob Campbell MW** 26/8/2020

**93 Points** "Before you take a slurp, enjoy the nose of this over a few sniffs, because it keeps changing, evolving from violets to anise, cedar and sweet damson. This is a very relaxed wine style; there's no sense of trying to be something it's not. The tannins are resolved, providing a fine powdery veil, while juicy acidity floods the mouth on the medium-long finish. Already accessible and will continue to evolve for at least 4–7 years." **Rebecca Gibb MW for Vinous Media**, March 2021.

