Domaine Takahiko

Vintage Guide

2021

2021 was a very good vintage at Domaine Takahiko. Assistant winemaker Toru Takamatsu told us that 2021 was a relatively warm vintage, which they have almost never experienced in the past. There was less rain compared to the previous year which gave a lot of good stress to the vines, but harvest season was fairly cool with ideal conditions - almost perfect conditions similar to that of 2005 in Burgundy. Over the past few years after release, the wine has become a lot more approachable, but we do think it is a vintage that will show beautifully with age. No added SO2.

2022

2022 was another warm vintage for the domaine, and on initial release Toru reported that the wines are bright, charming and complex with great aging potential. He says that 2022 was a great vintage which had both the ripeness and acidity they wanted, even with malolactic fermentation occurring in stops and starts due to the warmer cellar. After some time in bottle they have started to see some variation, most likely due to this lactic bacterial movement within the bottle that they did not foresee, causing some cloudiness and volatile acidity in the wine. The aromas show incredible layers of complexity, but the palate is still very youthful. With this more recent evaluation of the vintage, they suggest the wine be aged a minimum of 5 years to show its full potential while allowing the VA and lingering lactic activity to subside. No added SO2.

2023

2023 was a year with extreme heat in Hokkaido, yet the grapes still retained excellent acidity and concentration. In the cellar, however, they saw the same phenomenon happening within the barrel as in 2022 and hence made the decision to add a small dose of SO2. The the resulting wine does express Nana-Tsu-Mori, but with the addition of SO2 Takahiko-san decided to declassify the wine to "Yoichi-Nobori-N Passetoutgrain" consisting of 98% Pinot Noir from their Nana-Tsu-Mori vineyard and 2% Zweigelt purchased from a neighboring grower in Nobori. The last "N" in the wine's name references the Nana-Tsu-Mori vineyard.

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