LLAURADOR WINES
JOSÉ PASTOR SELECTIONS

DOMAINE TAKAHIKO

YOICHI-NOBORI-N 2023

ORIGIN

Yoichi, Hokkaido, Japan

VARIETIES

98% Pinot Noir, 2% Zweigelt

VINEYARD

The Pinot Noir is from the 6.7-hectare Nana-Tsu-Mori vineyard that Takahiko Soga planted at the domaine in 2010, and the Zweigelt is purchased from a neighboring grower in Nobori. The vines are planted at 60m above sea level on dark, fertile sandy volcanic soils over finely grained andesite gravels.

VINIFICATION METHOD

The grapes were harvested by hand and native yeast fermented whole cluster in large, neutral tanks made from food-grade resin. After primary fermentation a small dose of SO2 was added before the wine was racked into French oak barrels, about 15% of which are new. The wine completed malolactic fermentation and aged on fine lees for 12 months before being bottled without fining or filtering.

PRODUCER PROFILE

Founded in 2010, the wines from Takahiko Soga's small domaine on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido have gained cult status over the years. Many volunteers from all over Japan come to help in the harvest, all drawn by the unique wines and philosophy of the domaine's founder and the incredible quality and umami terroir of his natural wines. The domaine focuses on Pinot Noir and is based in Yoichi on the western coast of Hokkaido, where the cool weather is very well-suited to the variety (he says this micro-climate is similar to the Jura). Takahiko-san had worked at other wineries in Japan and was inspired by the natural wines of France. Farming is detail-oriented, regenerative, and hands-on; work in the cellar is simple and low-intervention: 100% whole cluster fermentation in large neutral resin tanks, then aging in (mostly used) oak barrels.

During the 2023 growing season, the estate experienced extreme heat going into the fall and winter due to global warming, causing some lactic bacterial movement in the wines that was not expected, yet the acidity remained high. Therefore, a small dose of SO2 was added and Takahiko-san declassified the wine to "Yoichi-Nobori-N" and added a touch of Zweigelt, with the "N" referencing their Nana-Tsu-Mori vineyard.