

**February, 2013**

**94- Rippon 2009 Emma's Block Pinot Noir**

This has the earthy scent of a rose garden. Its relatively light color belies the intensity of the flavor, a pretty vinous character with tension between its juiciness and structure. Nick Mills farms his family's lakeside estate in Wanaka under biodynamics, separating out this east-facing block where the soil includes clay as well as fine schist gravels. It has a more delicate expression than his other pinots, ghosting earth and roses in the finish.

**92- Rippon 2009 Tinker's Field Pinot Noir**

Tinker's Field is the oldest block on the Rippon Estate, planted in 1982 by Rolfe Mills, one of the pioneers of vineyards in Central Otago. His son, Nick, makes it into a brisk and fragrant pinot noir, a dark wine with youthful intensity. Red berry flavors come up in the finish, refined and lasting.

**90- Rippon 2009 Mature Vine Pinot Noir**

A dark, smoky earthen character infuses this pinot, which is otherwise youthfully dominated by oak. The texture is soft and cushioned, with a tangy finish that suggests several years of development ahead.