Nestled amongst the snow-capped mountains of Central Otago is our small Pinot Noir vineyard. Legend has it that the body of a young man was buried on the land back in the 1860s. No one knew who the young man was so his grave was simply marked “Somebody’s Darling lies buried here” – we named the vineyard Someone’s Darling.

This region produces intensely layered and complex wines, making it ideal for growing Pinot Noir. We are the custodians of this piece of land and our responsibility is to respect its rhythm, making wine with low intervention and with the love of the land.

Loveblock is our heart and soul.

2014 Central Otago Pinot Noir

Vineyard Notes
The Pinot Noir grapes come from our family-owned estate on the Bendigo Loop Road in Central Otago. Here, the soil type is free-draining sandy loam over schist alluvium gravels known as Molyneux soils. The clones planted in these soils are B777, B667, B115, Clone 5 (Pommard) and Abel. The vineyard is entirely cane pruned to two canes, with the wire being approximately half full. Yield from the vineyard in 2014 was two tonnes per acre. The Dijon clones give the wine nice floral notes, while Abel provides structure to the wine.

Vinification
Once the clones entered the required flavour profile they were machine harvested with a destemming harvester. At the winery, the fruit was pumped straight to the tank without crushing in order to leave some whole berries. After a five-day cold soak, the must was inoculated with D254 yeast. The ferment was hand plunged twice daily until dry when it was pressed off. The wine then underwent full malolactic fermentation in tank. After eight months of ageing, the wine was stabilised and coarse filtered. This wine was partially aged in oak.

Tasting Notes
Colour: Deep, dark crimson.
Aroma: Big, ripe black cherry with smoky notes and hints of mushroom peeking out behind rich fruit.
Palate: Fleshy black plum, with layers of cherry and sweet berries that play on the palate and dance with notes of violet.
Food match: Dry tannins and hints of cigar make this a versatile wine to pair with turkey, salmon, lamb and beef.
Cellar: Seven to 10 years.

Awards
Wine Spectator: 91 Points
Wine Enthusiast: 92 Points
Raymond Chan: 4 Stars
Cameron Douglas: 92 Points
2017 Global Pinot Noir Masters: Gold
2017 San Francisco International Wine Competition: Silver
2017 Winestate Annual Pinot Noir Wine Awards: 3.5 Stars
2016 IWSC International Wine & Spirit Competition: Bronze
2016 Air New Zealand Wine Awards: Bronze

Analysis
Alcohol: 13.5%
pH: 3.62
TA: 5.4 g/l
Residual sugar: Dry

Winemaker: Kim Crawford
Tasted: September 2016