

CHACRA



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2015 Chacra Cincuenta y Cinco

by **LUIS GUTIERREZ** DEC. 30, 2016

Rating

95

The 2015 Cincuenta y Cinco, pure Pinot Noir from a vineyard planted in 1955 (cincuenta y cinco is Spanish for 55), is an elegant, direct red with tension obtained by fermenting the grapes from those stony, sandy and clay-rich soils in concrete vats with half of full clusters and indigenous yeasts. Forty percent of the wine matured in second use French oak barriques for eight months, while the rest of the volume was kept in concrete until blending and bottling. I tasted it twice because proprietor Piero Incisa della Roccheta was not happy with how the first bottle showed, even though I found it quite good. But he was right, the second one was even better, with more energy. They consider 2015 one of their finest vintages. This has a nose of ripe cherries, some violets and a sense of energy and freshness, with no trace of oak. The palate is extremely elegant, with ultra-fine tannins and gob smacking balance, all about subtleness without feeling diluted. This has power and elegance. For now and the next 10+ years. A superb showing for Cincuenta y Cinco. 17,500 bottles were filled in early January 2016.

The wines from Chacra are now in the charge of winemaker Gabriele Graia.

Proprietor Piero Incisa Della Rocchetta has stopped using sulfur other than a small fraction at bottling time, which demands for healthier grapes and more selection.