

2010 INNOCENT BYSTANDER PINOT NOIR

Review Summary



93 pts “Innocent Bystander is nothing to do with cartoonist Michael Leunig but is the second label of Giant Steps winery in Healesville, where the talented Steve Flamsteed plies his trade. This superb wine shows what heights can be reached with modestly priced wines in outstanding vintages. It was fermented with 40 per cent stalks but they don’t show, simply adding to the wine’s overall complexity. Red and dark-cherry fragrance with a lick of spice; fine-boned with great delicacy and subtlety. Pure fruit flavor delivered with finesse. A lighter style with gentle structure for drinking young. Best now to five years.”

Huon Hooke
Sydney Morning Herald
October 2011

92 pts “Earthy black cherry notes with some light cedary oak provides an enticing opening on the nose. Here is a pinot that really packs some gumption. There’s a structure and fruit intensity yet there is the finesse and subtlety of pinot with a gentle fleshiness and fruit sweetness on the palate. Impressive wine.”

Ray Jordan
West Australian
March 10, 2011

91 pts “Smells of mown grass with the sharp tang of whole bunch ferment. Has a creamy, mouthwatering flavor and really tastes quite “woody”, so it is not just about primary fruit. Quite luscious tasting and an attractive, sharp, mouthwatering finish.”

Tim White
Australian Financial Review
April 2011

90 pts – Best Value \$25 and Under

Nick Stock
Good Wine Guide 2012



90 pts “Shows attractive purple tinged florals, cherries and underbrush. Supple and balanced on the palate, flavors run even and bright in the light berry spectrum.”

Nick Stock
WBM
July 31, 2011

89 pts “A full (and longer than usual) tasting note for this wine will be included in an upcoming book by James Halliday titled ‘1001 Wines Under \$20’, and will appear on the day of the release of the book, scheduled for 1 November 2011.”

James Halliday
Australian Wine Companion
2012

89 pts “Expressive aromas of red berries and spicecake, with a deeper note of cherry pit coming up with air. Juicy, open-knit red fruit flavors are given spine by tangy acidity and show good clarity. Nicely balanced, classic pinot, with good finishing cling and spicy persistence. This wine was fermented with 25% whole clusters and got “about 1% new oak,” according to winemaker Steve Flamstead.”

Josh Raynolds
Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2011

87 pts “The 2010 Pinot Noir presents a pale to medium ruby-purple color and aromas of warm raspberries and kirsch with hints of tar, damp earth and grilled duck breast. The light to medium bodied palate is softly textured with light tannins possessing just enough berry fruit and earthy flavors plus a good backbone of crisp acid. The finish is medium-long.”

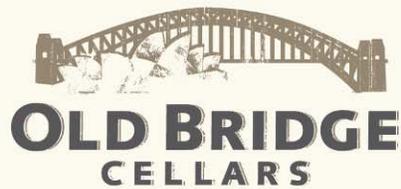
Lisa Perotti-Brown
eRobertParker.com
June 2011

86 pts “A lightweight but charming Pinot Noir, with pretty cherry fruit accented by notes of dried bracken and ground cinnamon. It’s soft, silky and immediately accessible.”

Joe Czerwinski
Wine Enthusiast
July 2012

Gold Medal

Royal Melbourne Wine Show 2011



“This is one of the best Pinot’s I have had in this price range. It had a delicious smokey strawberry scent on the tongue. I never associated such delicate flavors with Australian wines.”

Frederick Thurber
The Wine Observer Blog
June 15, 2014

“It’s tough to make delicious Pinot at an affordable price, which is why this supple, tasty bottling is so impressive.”

Food & Wine
Wine Guide
2013

“The Yarra Valley is best known for its focus on the Burgundy grape varieties of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. With a climate that is cooler than other winemaking regions in the country and soil that ranges from volcanic to sandy loam, Pinot Noir does especially well here. This Pinot Noir is a great example, with its ripe red fruit flavors touched with tobacco, refined structure and elegantly light body.”

Chantal Martineau
FoodRepublic.com
January 2012

“With more depth and purity than most ‘everyday’ Pinots this impactful wine is just the ticket to raise Australia’s Pinot Noir credentials in the big wide world. Silky smooth and punctured with cherry and plum notes this is just the fellow to race down with duck pancakes, lamb curries, steak sandwiches and any other yummy carnivorous food craving that you have right now. Not taking itself too seriously, but certainly ticking all of the boxes as far as would be Pinot connoisseurs are concerned this is a seriously smart piece of work and one which you should be loading into your cellar for ‘posh house wine’ use.”

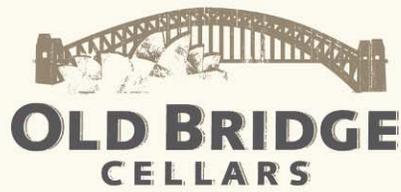
Matthew Jukes
November 2011

“A very grown up Pinot Noir...with good depth of fleshy plum fruit layered with earthier beetroot, cheroot and spice. Suede tannins add gentle grip and a nice touch of gravitas.”

Sarah Ahmed
TheWineDetective.com
September 15, 2011

“Pinot noir is the gimme red wine for vegetarian foods.”

Bill St. John
Chicago Tribune
August 17, 2011



“Renowned for top nosh and wine, the Giant Steps/Innocent Bystander winery is a gem in the heart of Healesville. There’s a bistro with delicious food (try the wood-fired pizza), plus a bakery, cheese room, provedore and wines that are produced on site. This light pinot has ripe cherry and spice flavors.”

Jane Howard
Sunday Herald Sun
August 7, 2011

★★★★ 1/2 “It is affordable, aromatic with sour cherry, plum, spice and floral notes, light but intense and lingering, succulent, silky and soft in tannins.”

Ralph Kyte-Powell
The Age Epicure
June 21, 2011

