

GIANT STEPS

VIGNERONS
YARRA VALLEY AUSTRALIA



2012 GIANT STEPS SEXTON VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER : Phil Sexton & Steve Flamsteed
REGION : Yarra Valley, Victoria
VARIETALS : Pinot Noir (MV6, 114, 115, Pommard, 777 and G5V)
MATURATION : 10 months in French oak - 25% new, 25% 1 year, 50% older
ANALYSIS : 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 6.0 g/L | pH: 3.61

VINEYARD :

Located on the steep north facing slopes of the Warramate Ranges, Sexton vineyard is exposed and demanding. Being well up the slopes, topsoil is thin and root systems have established themselves in shallow gravelly loams above a tough rocky clay base. Vigor and bunch yields set naturally low in this environment, facilitating a low intervention approach to what is otherwise hand tended viticulture. Biodynamic vineyard management principles are used for the purpose of further distinguishing the site and improving grape and wine quality. Sexton Vineyard Pinot Noir blocks were cropped at less than two tons per acre.

WINEMAKING :

Fruit was hand picked and chilled before being destemmed, but not crushed, to small open fermenters. 10% of the fruit was maintained as whole bunches. A five-day cold soak preceded a 10-14 day, indigenous yeast ferment with minimal cap work. Then, the wine was racked to French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and maturation. 5% of the wine was held cold post alcoholic fermentation to delay malolactic fermentation and integrate the tannins. The barrels were racked twice during spring and summer. Light fining, no filtration, gravity bottled.

TASTING NOTES :

Wonderfully intricate: notes of wild blackberry, dried mushroom, mulberry bush with braised plum, cinnamon stick and sour cherry. Its focused and fine tannins are assisted by judicious Burgundian oak treatment.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 96 pts Australian Wine Companion, 91+ pts Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, 91 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

ABOUT GIANT STEPS :

Established in 1998, Giant Steps explores the relationship between vineyard site, the Yarra Valley's cool climate, and different grape clones, to finely fingerprint the personality and character of each vineyard. The Sexton Vineyard, at the heart of the property, is a beautiful 75-acre, north facing hillside site located in the foothills of the Warramate ranges, rising from 425 to nearly 700 feet above the valley floor. A relatively cool site, management of this vineyard is intensive with all tasks, from pruning to harvesting, carefully done by hand.



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