

GIANT STEPS

VIGNERONS

YARRA VALLEY AUSTRALIA



2012 GIANT STEPS APPLEJACK VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER: Phil Sexton & Steve Flamstead
REGION: Gladysdale - Yarra Valley, Victoria
VARIETALS: Pinot Noir (Clones: MV6, 114, 115)
MATURATION: 11 months in 100% French oak (28% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.2% alc/vol | 3.5 pH | 6.1 g/L

VINEYARD:

Applejack Vineyard is 80 acres and was first planted in 2001. It is located on a dramatic east-facing slope, at an elevation of nearly 1,000 feet. The vines are close planted in red/brown clay loam soils and meticulously managed.

WINEMAKING:

The fruit was hand picked and hand sorted from two parcels, one of which was 100% whole bunch ferment, the second 100% destemmed to whole berries. Both parcels were given a cold soak for five days but the whole bunch ferment commenced fermenting after three days so it was allowed to warm and progress naturally, with just a few foot stomp "pigeages" towards the end of fermentation. The whole berry parcel was basically left alone, apart from several aerative drain and returns to assist in maintaining a healthy indigenous fermentation. After a short settling, the wine was racked off gross lees to oak for indigenous malolactic fermentation. No fining, no filtration, and three rackings were performed for clarity before gravity bottling.

TASTING NOTES:

Light, bright crimson color. It has a good intensity of raspberry and cranberry aromas plus whole bunch notes of Mediterranean herbs and moss, over subtle hints of underbrush and black truffles. Medium bodied, it has great concentration in the mouth with plenty of ripe berry flavors plus a suggestion of green peppercorns supported by crisp acid and a medium level of grainy, savory tannins. The finish is long.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 96 pts Australian Wine Companion, 95 pts Wine & Spirits

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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