



# 2015 GIANT STEPS SEXTON VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

## Review Summary



**98 pts/GOLD MEDAL/Best Pinot Noir**

Yarra Valley Wine Show 2016

**97 pts/THE TOP 100 AUSTRALIAN WINES OF 2016 – #8** “The most cerebral, layered, spicy and complex of the 2015 Giant Steps single-vineyard wines, this has a handy mix of savory and sweet aromas. There are cloves, chalky/stony smells, saffron and a swirling array of rose-like fragrances. It's really engaging and gently herbal, opening up into warmed, peppery spices and some musky florals, too. The palate is cut with finesse and detail and is really engaging and structurally complex for a pinot. The tannins strike the gentlest of grainy textures through fine pastry-like layers of fruit. Meanwhile, hints of blood-orange flavors meet crunchy red cherries and wild raspberries. Elegant yet powerful. Superb — their best to date. Delicious enough to drink now, but you'd be mad not to give it 5+ years. There is much to come!”

Nick Stock  
JamesSuckling.com  
January 11, 2017

**97 pts** “Naturally, shares the superb color of its siblings; here generosity takes the stage with richness and tannins woven into the superabundant red and black fruits by invisible mending. A brilliant wine by whatever standards you may choose, the lower Yarra Valley refusing to take a backwards step.”

James Halliday  
Australian Wine Companion  
2017



**96 pts** “Hooleydooley. If ya like ya pinot noir, and well, most of us do, then ya gunna like the Giant Steps 2015s. Perfect storm. How good are these vineyards? How good is Steve Flamsteed and co? Sexton is in the Warramate Ranges. Low yields. This is all hand-picked fruit, 40% is whole bunch in the ferment. Fermentation is natural, spends 11 months in 75% used oak, 25% new. Strap in.

Haze of cherry, sweet maraschino cherry, faint fennel, sniff of briar, exotic spice, touch of vanilla bean, but sweet as all that sounds, it’s more amaro sour-sweet than anything. And superb. Such volume of perfume too. Palate has an almost tactile white pepper dusting, feathery and suede tannins build that tactile feel, the wine draws long on an sleek elastic band of juicy, bright cherry fruit, that spice, glossy acidity. It sits in palate even, fine, long, restrained, finessed. Cashmere on the tongue. Far out.”

**Mike Bennie**  
**The Wine Front**  
**May 2016**

**93 pts/Top 100 New Release Wines** “Subtle brandied-cherry and cherry-jam aromas, fruit to the fore, while the palate is soft and rounded, mellow and smoothly textured, the tannins silky-fine. Bright raspberry flavors chime in on the palate. A pleasant grip rounds out the finish.”

**Gourmet Traveller Wine**  
**December 2016**

**Philip Rich’s Top 20 Wines of 2016 – #16** “A regular in my annual top 20, Giant Steps’ winemaker Steve Flamsteed was justifiably named Gourmet Traveller WINE Winemaker of the Year in September. He made four single-vineyard pinots in 2015 and the combination of a relatively warm site in Coldstream and a cool year has resulted in a beautiful lower Yarra pinot. Fermented in 4000-litre wooden vats and with 40 per cent whole bunches, which you can barely detect, there are aromas of red and dark fruits together with some spice. The palate is concentrated, complex and balanced.”

**Philip Rich**  
**Australian Financial Review**  
**November 23, 2016**