

2015 GIANT STEPS APPLEJACK VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Review Summary



97 pts “Significantly deeper color than prior vintages, likewise depth of fruit; the bouquet and palate are driven by black and red cherry fruit of exceptional generosity but teasing with an unusual touch of dark chocolate. Small wonder Giant Steps says this is its best vintage yet.”

James Halliday
Australian Wine Companion
2017

96 pts “Phil Sexton’s Applejack vineyard is in the upper reaches of the Yarra Valley and set at decent elevation. A cool site... 60% of the ferment was whole bunch. It was hand-picked and naturally fermented and sent to bottle without filtration after 11 months in 75% old barrels. What a killer line-up from Giant Steps in 2015. I simply can’t split them, if that was my task.

Telltale signs of cool places and whole bunch ferment, whiffs of garrigue, bouquet garni, so let’s say dried hedges and dried mixed herbs, in Australian lingo. There’s dark cherry, a faint sniff of cola, fennel, pepper too. The palate is awash and ablaze, bright and lively, shows a flighty sheet of tannin that drapes across the mouth then starts to tug like a fist closing on silk. The finish is pulled tight with that fine tannin, caraway seed spice, light herbal notes. It’s beautiful, wonderful drinking, so pluggable, so complex in its nature and presentation, so much to enjoy.”

Mike Bennie
The Wine Front
May 2016

93 pts/Top 100 New Release Wines “Youthful purple-red color with an intense aroma of root vegetables from whole-bunch ferments. Lovely fruit sweetness on the palate, plus balance and fine structure. Even better in a year where the stemmy notes have integrated further.”

Gourmet Traveller Wine
December 2016



92 pts “Brilliant red. Fresh red berries, pungent flowers and smoky minerals on the highly perfumed nose. Lively, spice-accented cherry and raspberry flavors pick up a smoky nuance as the wine stretches out. Echoes the floral note on a very long, taut finish that features a zesty mineral quality and smooth tannins.”

Josh Reynolds
Vinous
October 2017

91+ pts “Produced using 100% whole bunch, the 2015 Applejack Vineyard Pinot Noir has a pale ruby-purple color and quite a stemmy nose, with red currants and Bing cherries at the core, plus touches of loam and raspberry leaves. Medium-bodied with generous red berry and earth flavors, the stems are more balanced on the palate and should marry well with 2-3 years in bottle.”

Lisa Perrotti-Brown
Robert Parker Wine Advocate
October 2016

90 pts “Distinctive, featuring dusty, dried violet details set against a robust core of cranberry and cola flavors, with black tea notes lingering on the taut finish. Gains momentum toward the end, where the spicy sarsaparilla elements go on and on.”

MaryAnn Worobiec
WineSpectator.com
2017