

innocent bystander



2015 INNOCENT BYSTANDER PINOT GRIS

WINEMAKER: Steve Flamsteed & Phil Sexton
REGION: Yarra Valley, Victoria
VARIETALS: Pinot Gris
FERMENTATION: 70% stainless steel, 30% in older French oak (10% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.0% alc/vol | pH: 3.16

ABOUT THE VARIETAL:

Being a variant of Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris originated in the Burgundian vineyards of France. However, it wasn't until the vine migrated to the northern region of Alsace, that it made a name for itself. In Australia, there are two distinctively different styles of Pinot Gris. Firstly, there is a zippy, vibrant style with lemon freshness and crisp acidity. This contrasts with a richer type that has greater body and texture. In both styles, there is often an attractive mineral element that adds complexity.

VINIFICATION:

100% hand-picked and whole bunch pressed with free run and pressings portions kept separate. No clarification of the juice occurred so the free run was fermented on juice solids. 70% was stainless steel fermented at less than 63°F and 30% fermented in mostly seasoned French oak at 68-75°F. 30% of the wine then matured in the same oak. Indigenous and cultured yeasts were used to increase layers of complexity. Lees were stirred monthly until October. Protein, cold stabilized and lightly fined in tank prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES:

A superbly quaffable wine. Aromas of fresh cut pears, snow pea shoots and lemon thyme. The palate is fresh, crisp and bone dry with flavors of lime flowers and a touch of savory miso. The wine finishes with a twang, like lemon sorbet. Very moreish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

90 pts Vinous

ABOUT INNOCENT BYSTANDER:

Innocent Bystander has forged a reputation for delivering some of the Yarra Valley's most consistent, over-performing, affordable, varietal wines. Using 100% hand-picked fruit and non-intervention winemaking techniques these wines reflect Victoria's cool climate, soil and topography. In 2014, experienced vigneron Phil Sexton extended this philosophy across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand adding two new cool climate regions – Central Otago and Marlborough - to Innocent Bystander's portfolio.



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