

2018 GIANT STEPS YARRA VALLEY PINOT NOIR



WINEMAKER: Phil Sexton & Steve Flamsteed
REGION: Yarra Valley, Victoria
VARIETALS: Pinot Noir
MATURATION: 8 months in French oak (10% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 6.10 | pH: 3.60

VINTAGE: A fantastic spring with a highly successful flowering which allowed shoot thinning and cluster selection down to one bunch per shoot. The whole ripening season was a little earlier than average and despite some good January rain, the overall growing season was relatively dry. Fruit was picked with lower sugars but with beautiful flavor and stem ripeness. The resulting wines have lower alcohol, but similar acid levels to the 2017 and with a little more tannin structure.

WINEMAKING: Some of the grapes were crushed with 40% kept as whole clusters. Fermentation took place using indigenous yeasts in 4000L open top oak vats and stainless steel fermenters. Delestage was by gravity with some light hand plunges and pigeage. The wine was matured in 4,000L French oak vats and French oak barrels, 10% of which were new. The wine was not filtered prior to bottling by gravity.

TASTING NOTES: All the 2018 Giant Steps Pinots have lovely perfume, color and very generous mouthfeels. This wine expresses an intricate blend of delicious parcels from Giant Steps' Tarraford, Applejack, Lusatia Park, Primavera and Sexton vineyards. Powerful, lifted aromas of cherries, blue and red fruits are complemented by underlying savory, gamey characters.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 94 pts/#42 Top 100 Wines of 2019 Wine Spectator

ABOUT GIANT STEPS: Established in 1998, Giant Steps is owned by Phil Sexton and takes its name from John Coltrane's eponymous first solo jazz album. Giant Steps' fruit is biodynamically farmed and vinified with minimal intervention in its gravity flow winery. The Yarra Valley range is highly expressive, true to the climate, soil and topography of this region. The Single Vineyard range is crafted from the most site-expressive fruit off the best vineyards in great years. Giant Steps has forged a reputation for delivering some of Australia's most consistent, over-performing, varietal wines reflected by its ongoing, enviable global acclaim including Wine & Spirits Top 100 Wineries of the Year, 2013-2018.

