

# 2018 GIANT STEPS

## TARRAFORD VINEYARD SYRAH



**WINEMAKER:** Phil Sexton & Steve Flamsteed  
**REGION:** Yarra Valley, Victoria  
**VARIETALS:** Syrah  
**MATURATION:** 14 months in seasoned French oak  
**ANALYSIS:** 14.0% alc/vol | TA: 6.37 | pH: 3.68

**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:** This wine is made from the unique 'Red Dog' clone of Syrah. The origin is unknown, and it displays an intense white pepper, even in the warmer years. The final blend was 55% whole cluster fermented in 4000L oak vats before being pressed into 500L French oak puncheons for malolactic fermentation and maturation on the lees. The wine was not fined or filtered and was gravity racked for bottling.

**TASTING NOTES:** This is a stellar example of cool climate Australian Syrah. Fresh aromas of violets and peppercorns overlay black and blue berries. The palate is full-bodied but silky. It clings with excellent tenacity and focus, leaving black raspberry and floral pastille notes behind.

**CRITICAL ACCLAIM:** 95 pts/Editors' Choice Wine Enthusiast, 95 pts Robert Parker Wine Advocate

**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.

