



## Port Phillip Estate 'Morillon' Chardonnay 2018

## Tasting Notes

### Vineyard

The Port Phillip Estate Red Hill vineyard is located on the Mornington Peninsula at Red Hill, on Eocene volcanic soils. Our wines are made from domain grown, handpicked grapes and aim to manifest terroir: the integration of our geology and soils with the macroclimate of our region, the mesoclimates of the various sites within our vineyard and the weather of the annual grape growing season. Our cultural operations in the vineyard and practices in the winery endeavour to articulate these unique characteristics diligently, respectfully and without artifice.

### Vintage

Following a wet Winter, budburst commenced relatively late in mid-September. The Winter rainfall set up the vineyards well for Spring with overall temperatures during Spring slightly higher than average accompanied by below average rainfall. Flowering commenced mid late November with ideal weather conditions, resulting in one of the best fruit sets in many years.

The mild to warm conditions continued throughout Summer and veraison commenced in mid-January. Harvest delivered fruitful crop loads matched with very stable weather conditions, ensuring vine performance and good ripeness. Picking commenced late February and the viticultural team worked steadily until the beginning of April delivering outstanding fruit. The white wines display excellent acidity, depth and intense fruit flavours. The red wines look poised and elegant with powerful aromatics and a great balance between tannin and acid.

### Tasted January 2020

The Morillon Chardonnay is sourced from 0.1 hectare within the oldest Chardonnay block (1.3 hectares) at Port Phillip Estate's Red Hill vineyard. This block was planted in 1988 on a site nestled among folds of the hilly country in Red Hill. The Red Hill vineyard is dominated by red basalt, yet the Chardonnay block is planted in an area of sandy grey loam over yellow clay. With maturity, the original block consistently produces wine with an extra level of structure, balance and intensity. In light of this, we bottle a small portion separately as the ultimate expression of Chardonnay from this vineyard.

The grapes were gently whole-bunch pressed directly into French oak barriques (of which 20% were new), where fermentation occurred spontaneously with ambient yeasts. After fermentation the wine was aged on lees (without battonage) for 11 months, with the only racking occurring directly prior to bottling. The wine was bottled without fining and with minimal filtration.

The 2018 Morillon Chardonnay opens with a fresh and pure nose of grapefruit, tangelo, flint and spice. Citrus characters dominate the palate along with hints of stone fruit. It is powerful, linear and delivers great transparency and refinement, finishing with intensity and chalky acidity.

13.5% alc.