



Port Phillip Estate 'Morillon' Pinot Noir 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 Pinot Noir is sourced from 0.4 hectare within the oldest Pinot Noir block (0.6 hectare) at Port Phillip Estate's Red Hill vineyard. This block was planted in 1987 on a site nestled among folds of the hilly country in Red Hill. The iron and magnesium-rich but otherwise weathered basalts confer a savoury, earthy minerality to the wine. 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 Pinot Noir from this vineyard.

Harvested in mid-March, the fruit was fermented in a large-format wooden foudre. The ferment occurred spontaneously with ambient yeasts and lasted 17 days. Following fermentation the wine was pressed and racked into French oak barriques (of which 15% were new) and underwent indigenous malolactic fermentation. The total maturation period was 14 months. The wine was then bottled without fining or filtration.

A vibrant and perfumed nose, the 2018 Morillon Pinot Noir shows notes of morello cherry and cranberry together with rose petal and an earthier note of wild thyme.

Typical of wines from the Red Hill soil, the palate is shaped by streaks of ultra-fine tannin together with delicate fruit notes of strawberry and red currant. Mid-palate weight leads to a finish of excellent length, sustenance and purity.

13.5% alc.