



Port Phillip Estate 'Morillon' Pinot Noir 2019

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

Winter provided good average rainfall with approximately 200mm in total falling over June, July and August. Early September welcomed the beginning of budburst, leading to a cool Spring with very little rainfall. Cool weather continued throughout the peak growing months of October, November and December. Spring rainfall was slightly below average but sufficient to ensure the vineyards were in good condition leading into Summer.

January was warm, with temperatures exceeding the long-term average, and dry, with almost no rainfall. Veraison commenced mid-January as typical. February was cool providing relief to the vineyards and consolidating veraison across all our varieties. Harvest commenced late February. Warmer weather returned at the beginning of March and conditions remained very dry and moderately warm throughout the harvest period. The viticultural and winemaking teams worked with great tenacity, it was a compact vintage finishing in late March.

Tasted May 2021

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.

The 2019 Morillon Pinot Noir opens with familiar notes of red cherry, fresh alpine herbs and red currant. It's ethereal and bright, and with time in the glass, it reveals dried cranberry and a spicy oak character. On the palate, it is fresh, gentle and with subtle fleshiness. Cranberry appears again, together with a morello cherry intensity. Grainy tannins run along the palate, giving excellent length and the prospect of a long future.

13.5% alc.