



## Port Phillip Estate 'Morillon' Pinot Noir 2020

## 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

A cold wet Winter, with approximately 195 mm of rain falling over June, July and August, set up the vineyards well. A mild and early Spring followed. Conditions cooled somewhat in the lead up to flowering in early-mid November and continued throughout flowering, delaying fruit set.

A milder than usual Summer slowed the phenology of the vines. Veraison in many of our parcels was in early February, approximately two to three weeks behind the five-year average. The region received several large rainfalls during late Summer, 200 mm in total, more than double that of the same period the previous year. These rainfalls were managed effectively, and the vineyard remained disease-free.

Harvest commenced 11 March compared to 25 February the previous year. Weather during harvest was ideal, with cool overnight temperatures leading to very mild daytime temperatures. Our viticultural team worked steadily through the

calm yet constant harvest. Yields were significantly lower than average due to the extended cool flowering period. Despite low yields, the quality of the fruit was excellent.

### Tasted December 2022

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 late-March, the fruit was fermented in a stainless-steel tank. The ferment occurred spontaneously with ambient yeasts and lasted 18 days. Following fermentation, the wine was pressed and racked into French oak barriques (of which 20% were new) and underwent indigenous malolactic fermentation. The total maturation period was 14 months. The wine was then bottled without fining or filtration.

The nose unfurls to show red fruit notes of cranberry and strawberry, accompanied by spicier notes of anise and pine. Soft, subtle flavours and texture on the palate, that has excellent width and drive. More crisp red fruits appear alongside very fine, almost supple, tannins. Appealing now, this will reward cellaring for the medium term. 12.5% alc.