



Port Phillip Estate 'Morillon' Chardonnay 2023

Tasting Notes

Vineyard

The Port Phillip Estate 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

Spring remained cold and wet, with 389mm of rainfall, making it the wettest Spring in 25 years. These conditions were challenging for our viticultural team. Waterlogged soils prevented access to the vineyards, with critical tractor operations delayed several times. Flowering commenced mid to late November amid continuing cold and wet conditions, which protracted our flowering period over several weeks. These challenging conditions prevailed until late December when we finally welcomed warm and sunny days. Fortunately, all our vineyards remained disease-free. Conditions for most of January and February were ideal. All of our vineyards were healthy, albeit with very low crop loads. The mild conditions throughout late February and early March have made this part of the season almost perfect for slow and steady ripening. Harvest commenced on 3 March and concluded on 14 April, slightly later than usual. Weather conditions were mild with temperatures below average and rainfall above average, providing gradual ripening

throughout harvest with rain events being the only pressure. Our viticulture team worked steadily to deliver pristine fruit to the winery. Despite the low yields, fruit quality is exceptional.

Tasted April 2024

The Morillon Chardonnay is sourced from 0.1 hectare within the oldest Chardonnay block (1.3 hectares) that sits in the ideal site for the variety 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. We bottle a small portion separately as the ultimate expression of Chardonnay from this vineyard.

The fruit was gently handpicked and whole-bunch pressed directly to French oak puncheons (20% of which were new), where fermentation (on full solids) occurred spontaneously with ambient yeasts. Following fermentation, the wine was aged on lees (without battonage) for an additional 11 months and was bottled without fining and with minimal filtration.

The 2023 Morillon Chardonnay is expressive and layered, offering an alluring nose of grapefruit and citrus flesh, fresh lemon blossom, and white peach. Beneath this brightness lie savoury nuances of grilled cashew, crème fraîche, and subtle hints of flint and oyster shell woven together with gentle notes of oak toast and spice. It's a wine that reveals its intricacy slowly, with each swirl of the glass uncovering another dimension. The

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palate is vibrant and finely detailed, opening with flavours of grapefruit citrus carried on a bright line of acidity. Subtle phenolics lend tension and structure, while a creamy mid-palate, infused with almond meal and spiced apple from extended lees contact, provides volume and texture. Long, poised, and intricately composed, this Chardonnay will continue to evolve, offering increasing depth and complexity with time in the cellar.

13.5% alc.