



Port Phillip Estate ‘Morillon’ Pinot Noir 2023

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

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 Pinot Noir is sourced from 0.4 hectare within the oldest Pinot Noir block 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.

The fruit was gently handpicked and destemmed to a stainless steel vessel, where fermentation commenced spontaneously with ambient yeasts. It was gently pumped over and plunged over 16 days. Following fermentation, the wine was pressed to French oak barriques (15% of which were new) and underwent indigenous malolactic fermentation. The wine was then aged for 12 months before being bottled. The wine is unfinned, and only a single filtration was undertaken.

Aromatically vivid yet graceful, the 2023 Morillon Pinot Noir opens with crushed strawberry, raspberry, and pomegranate – red fruits full of energy and charm. Beneath this brightness lies a gentle hum of fresh herbs, brown spice, and earthy notes, each quietly layering in a sense of place and subtle complexity. The palate is finely poised, with red cherry and cranberry dancing

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along a line of supple, savoury tannin. A bright, cranberry-like acidity threads through the wine, bringing clarity, lift, and drive. There’s a quiet tension – between brightness and depth – that unfolds slowly. Long, layered, and intricately detailed, this wine offers both immediate appeal and the promise of graceful evolution with time in the cellar.

13.5% alc.