



HELEN'S HILL

SINGLE VINEYARD YARRA VALLEY

Helen's Hill 'First Light' Reserve Pinot Noir 2017

ABOUT

Made entirely from the MV6 clone, our First Light Reserve Pinot Noir truly reflects the unique characteristics of Australia's very own pinot noir clone. The vines in the old block were planted in 1980, so are well into the 3rd decade, and as such require minimal work with regard to monitoring fruit loads. By the very fact that they are old and gnarly means that they are by nature low yielding and consistently express both varietal and terroir characteristics.

2017 VINTAGE REPORT

One of the truly great pinot noir vintages. The late winter and early spring conditions provided many challenges for our viticulture team as mild spring temperatures and consistent rain increased disease pressure and led to a difficult flowering. Once we got through the initial difficulties, the positive was that the scene was set a great ripening conditions for cool climate varieties with plenty of moisture in the soil. An unseasonably cool summer ripening period led to slow development of flavours and great acid retention in all varieties. The result is incredible pinot noir fruit that will make wines of great fruit intensity and structure from the acid profile the fruit maintained all the way until harvest.

WINEMAKERS NOTES

Hand harvested. Destemmed and lightly crushed into a single open top fermenter for primary fermentation. 10 days total on skins with daily pump overs before pressing off into French oak barriques (40% new) for ageing. This wine spends a total of 14 months in barrel and is made solely from the MV6 clone.

TASTING NOTES

This wine is a brooding pinot noir. It has a softness, alluring character both in its aromatic profile and also on the palate. The fruit character is predominantly dark cherry, with a savoury edge and the perfect amount of structure and energy added from the vibrant acid the 17 vintage conditions created in our pinot noir. Cellaring this wine is almost mandatory as it will blossom into a truly great pinot noir after 4-5 years in the bottle.



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