



August 2012

Curly Flat

VINE TO WINE

No. 29

Almost sold out of the ... **2009 Curly Flat Pinot Noir**

2009 Pinot Noir - Last drinks!

When we initially released our 2009 Pinot Noir it was deemed by some wine writers to be our finest expression of Pinot Noir released to date. We can now also add James Halliday and Huon Hooke to that list as they too bestow lofty accolades.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, this vintage was scarce from the moment of release due to the 60% loss of our potential crop. Grape flowers were decimated by an isolated, but brutal downpour that came at the delicate flowering stage of the 08-09 growing season. So as glowing praise continues to grow for this wine, equally our stocks are decreasing at a quickening rate. It will sell out much sooner than any other previous vintage, prompting us to release the 2010 CF Pinot Noir by November.

As a reference, if you enjoyed our 2003 or 2005 Pinot, you will savour the robust 2009 and it's lingering finish. 2010 Pinot has the power of 2006 vintage with the subtleties of 2008.



Our 2009 Pinot Noir will last in your cellar, but not on our shelf!

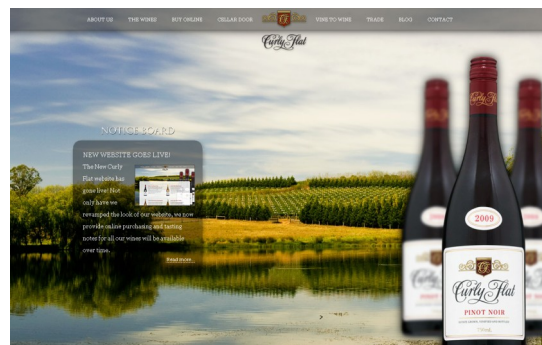
Praise continues for Curly Flat 2009 Pinot Noir

A heady and hedonistic array of red and black fruits, Asian spices and subtle floral notes blend together on the bouquet; the palate is silky, deeply textured and layered, with a tightly wound core of super fresh fruit and mouth watering acidity; long, silky and beautifully detailed, this will reward careful cellaring, but will be hard to leave alone.

96 Points - Halliday Wine Companion 2013

Smoky, oaky aromas, some charred-oak suggestions, a hint of guaiacol. Not a lot of bright primary fruit, but it's better in the mouth where there's a good depth of flavour, fruit and secondary characters, not oaky, but full-bodied and tannic with lots of structure, drive and length. Richness and fruit sweetness is nicely balanced by tannins and extract, with strong structural elements. Very long finish. Impressive stuff. 95 points - Huon Hooke (huonhooke.com)

New look website is up and running!



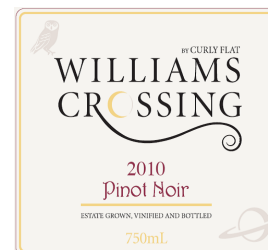
The new look website—tasting notes and online purchasing

With our focus firmly on the vineyard and winery, matters like updating the website have been on our minds but hard to get around too. Our old website was well out of date and due to the pace of technology it was much easier to create a new website from scratch. This has enabled our new website to have the features you have come to expect, such as online ordering and tasting notes.

Presently we have only put up tasting notes for our current vintages, but over time we will upload tasting notes on our older wines and will give you our opinion on how they are currently looking and how far away their drinking horizons may be. Overall the site will continue to evolve over time.

Williams Crossing where quality meets value...

Also rapidly selling out are our 2010 releases under the Williams Crossing label, a wine continues to provide quality at a price that doesn't match! As we have the highest standards for which barrels qualify as Curly Flat, the Williams Crossing wines have gained a reputation as some of the best value Pinot Noir & Chardonnay available in Australia. We'll drink to that!



Halliday review for the Williams Crossing Pinot Noir

Bouquet is bright and full of red fruits, florals and a well-handled seasoning of spicy French oak; the palate is light-bodied, fresh and focused, showing fine tannins and glimpses of spice and briary complexity in an elegant framework. 92 points - Halliday Wine Companion 2013



The Budburst Festival will be on once again over the 17th & 18th of November. Curly Flat will be participating, but this is also an opportunity to explore the regions hidden gems as many Macedon producers rarely open their cellar doors. We'll have food available over both days as Chef Emma Chapple (ex-Star Anise, Kyneton) will provide tempting food options in the sublime atmosphere of our Vintage Hall. We'll provide more details via our newsletter & blog, by early November.

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Annual Cutler & Co. Lunch at The Flat!

Come November the 25th, Andrew McConnell and his skilled team from Cutler & Co. will once again preside over the kitchen at Curly Flat. Six years on, Andrew's culinary flare has only become brighter. We will pull some older vintages from the cellar to show with the current releases.

Andrew will draw upon seasonal produce to create an undoubtedly stunning degustation menu. Full details of the degustation menu will be released on our blog closer to the time of the lunch. But this event is guaranteed to sell out at lightning speed, so please get in quick!



Andrew McConnell & Team return to Curly Flat

As we have done in the past, transport from Woodend train station to Curly Flat and back will be provided. Please let us know when you book if you'd like to use this service.

For all bookings and enquires please call (03) 5429 1956.

Details: Sunday, 25th November 2012 \$175 p/person

2012 Pinot Gris available by November

Yes you read it correctly, we are calling it a Gris due to its full bodied nature, whilst retaining our hallmark refreshing acid backbone and structure. We are amongst a handful of Gris/Grigio producers in Australia who are showing that this variety when the grapes are grown and then vinified with the utmost respect, can deliver an exciting wine full of flavour, texture and length with great cellaring potential to boot. The forthcoming 2012 will be no exception. Due to be released this November, be sure to get in quickly as there never seems to be enough! We'll release tasting notes in our November newsletter to coincide with its release.

Although sold out, here is **James Halliday's** review for our 2011 Pinot Grigio, to support our claims of the Curly Flat Grigio/Gris having character and true cellaring potential;

'This is about as savoury as Pinot Grigio gets, with a struck match character offset by pure pear and fresh cut lemon; the palate is racy and dry, linear and exceptionally long, and the opportunities for creative food pairings are an exciting prospect.'

94 points Drink by: 2018!



Pruning, one of the things we get to control!

In the vineyard there are elements over which we have no control, chief of these being the weather. Rather than this being a problem, it is really a cause for celebration as this is an aspect of terroir that makes the story of wine so exciting, individual and dynamic. If we were able to dictate the perfect season year in, year out, this would ultimately strip wine of any true character, rendering it just a drink, rather than something unique with a story to tell, to those who listen. Which is what we do. We listen, we watch and we learn. There is no escaping this mantra. Nature cannot be pleaded to or cajoled, leaving us as servants to our site and each unique season. This only serves to sharpen our focus onto the factors that we can control. This is occurring right now as we are currently pruning and therefore creating the platform for Vintage 2013. With pruning we can promote uniformity and overall balance, which provides for a healthy canopy and balanced fruit load for the year ahead.



Our vineyard team creating the framework for Vintage 2013

Whilst it can be said viticulture is a monoculture, for us nothing could be further from the truth as each vine is as individual as each of our experienced vineyard team. Each of us carries a personal sense of duty of care in our ultimate goal of 'growing' the best wine we can from each season, but also ensuring long term vineyard health for the many seasons that lay ahead. As paradoxical as it seems, we have to remain both short and long sighted!

So long and thanks for all the biscuits

Many visitors to Curly Flat will have met Baa-rry, Jeni's friendliest sheep. He loved anyone who would feed him biscuits, grapes or roses or would scratch his back. For years Baa-rry was a free range sheep, frequently dropping in on cellar door, but after ring barking one too many trees, he had to be confined to a yard. He died peacefully at home a week before his 13th birthday. Rex, the 16 year old kelpie who came from the Woodend Pets Haven 3 years ago also checked out peacefully. We'll miss you Rex and Baa-rry! But the cycle of life continues in the form of Bernie, the 3 year old Springer Spaniel, coming to us via the Woodend Pets Haven to join our kelpie, Musti, along with our veritable ark of cats, horses, cockatiels, sheep and our recently arrived mob of kangaroos which graze freely!

