

VINE TO WINE

*Time to release...***2016 Curly Flat Pinot Noir & 2017 Curly Flat Lacuna Chardonnay**

Photo by Curly Flat Vineyard Manager Lisa Kimmorley

2016 Vintage – Warm year, cool climate...

If you like our 2012 Pinot, you'll love our 2016 release with its similar aromatic profile, structure and intensity.

The 2016 growing season was the warmest this decade, highlighting the importance of cool climate viticulture, especially for Pinot Noir. The Macedon Ranges is the coolest viticultural region on mainland Australia. That's why our wines benefit from the power of a warm vintage without losing complexity and length. This balance is possible as most of our ripening takes place after the heat spikes of summer, not during them. This preserves aromatics and allows even berry development. It avoids over and under ripe characters that break the continuity of length. These factors are the essence of our 2016 Curly Flat Pinot Noir, a marriage of power and elegance.

2016 Curly Flat Pinot Noir (\$52)

Bouquet: Red berries swirl among darker fruits, roasted quinces and sweet cinnamon lead, alongside an edge of fresh tobacco leaves, forming a rich, fragrant and savoury nose.

Palate: A concentrated, energetic palate with cherries and plum characters front and centre. A long lingering finish, awash with soft, mouth coating tannins.

Cellaring: A fine, powerful expression of Curly Flat Pinot Noir. Approachable now but undoubtedly one for the cellar. An easy 10, if not 15 years lay ahead.

**Price rise coming on back vintages**

We're giving you notice of price increases so you have a chance to buy at the old price. At the release date of the 2016 Pinot Noir on the 1st of September, all our back vintages will increase in price, so take this opportunity to buy 2015 wines before they become part of our museum.

The return of Lacuna (an unfilled space) (\$30)

We haven't bottled a Lacuna Chardonnay at Curly Flat since the 2013 vintage. Lacuna is our unoaked chardonnay, a humble nod to Chablis. In Lacuna, our aim is to produce a chardonnay that speaks more of fruit and place, requiring a different approach in the winery (harvesting for a slightly lower potential alcohol and minimising oak intervention in fermentation and aging).

Bouquet: Fine white floral aromatics merge with a melange of stone fruits and lemon curd. Wisps of sea spray and baking spice imbues savoury complexity.

Palate: Vibrant citrus and white peach flesh flows upon a bed of minerality. Subtle and complexing lees character drives both flavour and texture along the fresh palate line.

Cellaring: Still youthful and drinking well now, we expect bottle age will deliver greater savoury depth over time. With its vibrant acid line, we see an ultimate drinking window that will remain open until around 2022.



2015 Curly Flat 'The Curly' Pinot Noir

"This wine is like one of those fabulously engaging, flamboyant people that you meet, who are open and charming, and in an instant, you adore them. The aromatics are wafting and heady and the palate is soft, open and generous. However, underneath there are enough nuances of herbs and spice to keep things interesting. Made from the oldest vines in the vineyard, MV6 clone. Whole bunch fermentation and new French oak maturation."

94 points. Toni Paterson, *The Real Review*



2016 Curly Flat Chardonnay

"This Curly Flat shows all the width of a riper year and with perfectly poised acidity. Caramel, woodsmoke, oak spice, apple pie, peach and then a palate that is initially broad palate with a taut finish. Each time I came back to this the more pristine and grapefruity it looked, despite the richness of oak and fruit weight. This is lovely stuff – so chunky and plump but contained by grapefruit acidity (and elegant acidity as it went through malo). Footy player power, ballet dancer delicacy. Delicious full bodied Victorian Chardonnay. Would I buy it? Absolutely."

95 points. Andrew Graham, *Oz Wine Review*



Happenings at Curly Flat

From the vineyard: As a relatively dry winter with frosty mornings has descended, our focus is the vineyard. Pruning is the first step on our journey to set up the structure for our 2019 vintage and far beyond. We attend to each vine individually with their long term prosperity foremost in mind. The entirety of our 33 acres under vine is hand pruned by our experienced team who work in the vineyard all year round. Great structure in wine begins with the vines!



From the winery: As we prepare to bottle our 2017 Curly Flat Chardonnay, its Pinot Noir counterpart and all the 2018s are resting in barrel. With the 2017 season being neither overly cold or warm, we are seeing wines of aromatic beauty and balanced fruit combining to form powerfully long living wines in both varieties. While beguiling fragrance is a feature of 2017, 2018 is a more powerful expression. Density with elegance, structure with length are the phrases most used as we sample from barrel.

These are two delightfully distinct vintages that express beautifully the seasons from which they were grown. Our first release of 2018 will see the return of the White Pinot, a much requested wine.



MoVida comes to Curly Flat

We're excited to announce that Frank Camorra and the MoVida team will be coming to Curly Flat on **Sunday November 25th** to cook up a Spanish storm. Join us for tapas and shared plates, croquetta, slow braised lamb, and jamón in a Curly Flat first. This is a lunch not to miss. Tickets are \$185 per head all inclusive.



Ian Curley and French Saloon Lunch

We still have a few seats remaining for our Curley / Curly 4 course lunch on **Sunday August 19th**. Ian Curley and the team from French Saloon will be showcasing their new season classics. The menu for the four course lunch is available to view on our website. Seats are \$170 per head all inclusive.

Transport options are available for all lunches. For more details please enquire when making your booking.

Vintage 2011 Museum Focus

In continuing our limited museum releases, this quarter we focus on 2011. Winemakers and grape growers have been known to shudder at the thought of 2011 the season. Rainfall records were broken. Careful vineyard management by Curly Flat's dedicated team and our lyre trellis system allowing greater air circulation and sun penetration, resulted in an excellent wine in the most challenging of years. Huon Hooke said of the 2011 Curly Flat vintage: "Wines made from healthy grapes, harvested earlier than usual and with lower alcohol strength, are often wines of great finesse."

For the next three months, 50 dozen of our 2011 Curly Flat Pinot Noir (plus some half bottles) will be available at current releases prices both online and at cellar door.

2011 Curly Flat Pinot Noir \$60 \$52

2011 Curly Flat Pinot Noir half bottles \$29 \$27

Decanter UK World Wine Awards - Best Australian Pinot

96 points - James Halliday

94 points - Ben Thomas

94 points - Tyson Stelzer

92+ points - Campbell Mattinson

The perfume leaps out of the glass, highly floral and spicy, and the palate has a totally delicious array of strawberries, wild and cultivated, the flavours lingering long after it has been swallowed. Brilliant outcome for the vintage. James Halliday, Wine Companion

Vale Kirby

We are devastated at the passing of Kirby Roulstone, our irreplaceable, colourful friend. His craftsmanship runs deep through Curly Flat. Kirby did the first restorative work on and paving around Vintage Hall, laid most of the bricks in the winery and built the brick pillars at our entry. Our website has a tribute to Kirby, the finest of human beings.