

VINE TO WINE

Curly Flat release its best-ever pinots

... *Huon Hooke*

“a trio of 2018 vintage Pinot Noirs that are all superb” Huon Hooke in The Real Review.

2018 - What a year! Near perfect conditions, and the tireless work of our vineyard crew, headed by Lisa Kimmorley, provided us with some of the best fruit ever grown at The Flat. Winemakers Matt Harrop and Ben Kimmorley attended to every detail in the winery. Consequently, we are thrilled to release our flagship 2018 Curly Flat Pinot Noir. We are also excited to present, for the very first time, 2 new single site wines: 2018 Central Pinot Noir, and 2018 Western Pinot Noir.



Matt & Ben photo Kim Selby

It was apparent early that vintage 2018 had delivered a near perfect expression of site. Each of our Pinot Noir ferments - 22 of them - were kept separate, from pressing through to MLF, racking and maturation. To watch these wines evolve, grow and mature in oak showed vividly the differences between them - aspect, clone, vine age, soil type, elevation, micro-climate - allowing Matt and Ben to make some blending decisions that have lead to the two new Pinot Noirs.

The Central bottling is from the oldest vines, MV6 clone planted in 1992. Facing due north, this block produces powerful black fruited wines with deep hues, dense aromatics and plentiful tannins.

Finesse is the name of the game with our Western bottling. From the 1998 plantings of 115 & 114 clones, on the western boundary sheltered from the late afternoon sun. It is the latest ripening block on the farm and typically produces the finer, more supple and aromatic components of the Curly Flat blend.

These 2018 wines have all the hallmarks of the great Curly Flat vintages: power, finesse and longevity.

Reviews are on the next page.

Only 130 dozen of the 2018 Western and Central Pinot Noirs were produced. We want our loyal supporters to taste these wines, and spread the joy. The wines are available online in sets of six, two bottles of each. They are also available by contacting the office on 03 5429 1956 or via orders@curlyflat.com. Western and Central Pinots will not be available to restaurants or retailers.

Our online sales system has been adjusted so that when you purchase the 2018 Pinot Pack, it is recognised as six bottles, not one - handy to help get 10% discount for dozen purchases!

We urge you to stock up on older vintages by the end of August as, on 1st September, the prices of those increases. Nothing remains for sale in 750 ml bottles in vintages 2014 and older. If you are after some 2015 vintage, get in as soon as you can.

Unsettled times

Our hearts go out to all those whose lives have been badly impacted by the pandemic, particularly our many friends in the restaurant industry.

While we currently cannot do tastings at cellar door, you can come to buy wine. We also encourage you to phone beforehand to let us know when you will arrive. Placing and paying for your order in advance will let you collect the wine with minimal contact. Autumn is a glorious time of year to visit with the vibrant green grass and rust coloured leaves. Drive via Mount Macedon and be dazzled by the autumn splendour.



When we know the parameters of doing tastings, we will post details on our website and Facebook.

Curly Flat lunches and dinners postponed

When permitted, we will resume lunches and dinners at Curly Flat and beyond. Cutler & Co, French Saloon, MoVida, Ovolo Brisbane and Canberra, a stunning Merivale venue, ... The events may have fewer diners (great for the acoustics in Vintage Hall) but they will be more frequent and diverse. We want to fully support restaurateurs on the road back to buoyancy.

Everybody's talking ...

2018 Curly Flat Pinot Noir

Dried rose perfume with some fresh mint, deep raspberry flavour, a little almond and vanilla, plus some spice. It's ripe, but not overly so, with cool acidity, a dusting of graphite tannin, and a long biscuity finish. It's generous in style, but keeps itself trim. I'm particularly tickled by the quality of tannin here. Excellent. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** 95 Points

... a delightfully complex wine which is important to remember because this is a bare youngster. Approachable now with the fragrance of crushed red berries, musk, potpourri. The wine glides across the tongue leaving an impression that is both sweet-fruited, studded with lively red cherries, and don't you just love that touch of pepper to close. Cool climate Pinot to the very end. **Jeni Port, WinePilot** 95 Points

A spicy, charred-oak note on the aroma, suggesting a substantial oak input. The wine is medium to full-bodied and well-concentrated, with an excellent tannin backbone. A gutsy, structured wine. **Huon Hooke, The Real Review** 94 Points

2018 Western Curly Flat Pinot Noir

There's a strong family resemblance to the Curly Flat 2018, though this wine is a little tighter and finer, with more pepper and spice, less oak, and perhaps less tannin. It's red fruited, clean and clear, a bit meaty, light dusty tannin, a 'mineral' finish of precision and length. Nice one. **Gary Walsh, The Wine Front** 95 Points

The bouquet redolent of sweet, dark cherries, the fruit doing most of the talking - as opposed to obvious stalk character or other artifact. The wine is medium to full-bodied and well-structured with a firm tannin backbone and a semi-obscured core of charming sweet cherry. Very good intensity, persistence and strength. A serious Pinot that will reward a little more time in a dark place. **Huon Hooke, The Real Review** 96 Points



2018 Central Curly Flat Pinot Noir

Into the dark woods we go, surrounded by the scent of undergrowth, hummus, dark berries and dried herbs. There's some serious intent delivered here in the glass. A top vintage, old vines and power to burn all play a role. Colour is deepest crimson. Black cherry, blackberry and black tea – there is a theme happening here – they all rise from the glass together with the scent of earth and undergrowth. Where the flagship 2018 Pinot Noir from Curly Flat was sweet-fruited, this is savoury and brooding. The tannins are complicit in the savouriness. Central is one of three pinots made from the 2018 vintage, very individual and, to my mind, the most striking with an almost haunting finish. **Jeni Port, WinePilot** 95 Points

A dusty, earthy and smoky oak aroma, slightly subdued in the fruit department, while the palate is full and rich, deep and chewy with ample tannin and savoury softness. The palate is stern and firm, slightly forbidding, not showing much Pinot charm or 'feminine' aromatics, but hearty and structured, and promising more in future. **Huon Hooke, The Real Review** 96 Points

The Central is a more masculine representation of Pinot Noir in terms of tannin and structure but still maintains floral aromatics the showcases pristine cool climate fruit and the deft use of new French oak. The nose focuses on dark cherry and rhubarb fruit with lifted oak induced aromatics. There is a completeness to the wine on the palate with a generosity of fruit that sits alongside supple but impactful tannins; it is the tannin profile that sets the wine apart, they come in layers and envelope expressive dark cherry fruit and live long beyond the final sip. A benchmark example of Australian Pinot Noir. **Patrick Eckel** 97 Points

2018, but wait, there's more!

Maximum temperatures of the 2018 growing season were moderate, averaging a perfect 26°. These ideal conditions gave us exceptional Chardonnay and Pinot Gris as well.

Patrick Eckel on 2018 Chardonnay :

What is immediately evident is the concentration of fruit; the sheer power of the wine is quite remarkable but held in balance by the vanillin impact of new oak and the mineral acidity that the region is known for.

Steve Leszczynski, Q Wine on 2018 Pinot Gris

Pinot Gris that just sizzles. What a beauty. Personality and interest with a soothing embrace to close. Bless. There's not much that isn't right about Curly Flat. Damn this is an exquisite wine...

