

# 2019 Curly Flat Western Pinot Noir

## About the Western...



As with our inaugural 2018 Western Pinot Noir, our 2019 has been sourced from our coolest viticultural sites. Planted in 1997 & 1998 these blocks now form the fragrant peak of Curly Flat Pinot Noir. Eastern facing and situated on a rising slope to the west, the upper areas receive the morning to midday sun but receive only dappled light come late afternoon, providing for slower ripening and greater retention of aromatics. While the majority of soils in this area are geologically young volcanic red soils, select parcels find themselves situated in soils eroded from an ancient seafloor dating back 430 million years. We call this area 'white dirt' due to the noticeably lighter appearance. Ultimately these wines present in varying shades but each share beautiful aromatics imbued with powerful fruit drive that's densely packed with fine talc like tannins. We bottle a small portion from these blocks separately to showcase both its uniqueness and its importance to the Curly Flat Pinot Noir Estate blend.

## Vintage 2019

After a cooler spring, the summer months delivered moderate to warm temperatures of an average of 28 degrees. Veraison occurred in January, past the heat peak of summer and slow ripening ensued without compromise to length or varietal detail. Outside of an above average flourish in November, the rainfall of the season overall was low with the lead up to harvest being our driest on record with only 41mm received between December and April. The combination of warm days, cool nights and very low rainfall manifested in a more powerfully structured yet fragrant Pinot Noir that serves to showcase the quality of tannin that is grown in our vineyards.

## From the winery

Our 2019 Western Pinot Noir consists of three parcels from our Western blocks. 20% comes from the 'white dirt', our most fragrant and ethereal parcel from the ancient soils found in our 1998 planting. The remaining 80% comes from our 1997 planting, in the form of two parcels consisting separately of 114 and 115 clones found upon younger volcanic red soils. All were indigenously fermented with a small percentage of whole bunches for further lift and enhanced structure to underpin a fine yet deeply flowing palate of red and dark berried fruit. Spending around three weeks on skins these parcels were pressed to then spend 16 months in barrel. The 2019 Western consists of 17% whole bunch and no new oak to ensure vineyard fragrance is unobscured along with no filtration upon bottling.

## Reviews

"The pick of the 2019's from Curly Flat which is no mean feat. There is a floral lift to dark cherry with sweeter spice and earth. The palate is medium bodied, with a fullness of dark cherry; tannins are supple but expansive, there is drying and savoury impact to finish that melds with dry spice. Great length and one for the cellar. Drink 2021-2033"

**96 points, Patrick Eckel, winereviewer.com.au**

"Deep red/purple colour, with a sweetly-scented raspberry, black cherry and mixed spice bouquet. The wine is full and ample, rounded and supple-textured, loaded with delicious intense pinot flavours and ample soft, fine-grained tannins, the aftertaste lingering long. A superb pinot, thoroughly delicious in every way. The tannins suggest it will take some age to advantage. (From the westernmost and coolest site, the vines planted in 1997 and 1998.)" 2022-2034

**96 points, Huon Hooke, The Real Review**

**Clones:** 115 , 114 **Harvested:** 22nd March, 2019 **Alc/Vol (%):** 14 **TA (g/L):** 5.3 **pH:** 3.62

**Cellaring:** Now - Ten years