

JOSHUA COOPER

MACEDON RANGES AND SURROUNDS

Gourmet Traveller Wine Young Winemaker of The Year
Gourmet Traveller 2020

“One of Australia’s brightest young winemakers.”
Mike Bennie, Voyeur Magazine, May 2018

“Joshua Cooper is one of Australia’s brightest young stars”
Nick Stock jamesuckling.com 2020

“From Victoria, Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs from the likes of Gary Farr (By Farr), Joshua Cooper and Robert Walters (Place of Changing Winds) should be changing perceptions of Australian wine. These are in many cases delicate, elegant, refined wines that deliver classic varietal expression and defy old stereotypes.”
Joe Czerwinski robertparker.com 2021

“...Using grapes bought in from carefully chosen, non mainstream sources...However difficult the bottles may be to get into, their contents are pretty impressive.”
Jancis Robinson, The Cool Macedon Ranges with Max, April 2018

“His latest releases show the range of his talent with pinot noir and, especially, chardonnay.. With Cooper’s light touch in Old Port Righ was our top scoring chardonnay from Australia this year.”
Wine & Spirits Magazine Winter 2020

SINGLE VINEYARD RELEASE 2022



Vintage 2021

After the erratic and unpredictable weather of 2020, vintage 2021 was a welcome return to more “classic” conditions, though not without its own challenges. Sadly very little Chardonnay was able to be produced due poor flowering and high disease pressure resulting in grapes of less than desirable standard. Very happily though there was the introduction of two new vineyards. Established in 1999 Dash Farm, supplying Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon and located on the granitic Southern foothills of Mt Alexander looking back towards Mt Macedon and the Macedon Ranges - the Cobaw Ridge vineyard slopes look directly at those where Dash Farms is situated and share the same soil type.

Balgownie Vineyard is a name that should need no introduction to lovers of Victorian wines. Established 1969 in Maiden Gully on Ordovician shale, quartz and ironstone rubble it now supplies me a small amount of old vine Cabernet Sauvignon from vines planted 1970. The 1980 vintage, produced by Stuart Anderson remains at the top of the tree for me in terms of Australian Cabernet Sauvignon, a truly remarkable wine which still looks as youthful as a 10 year old.

Vintage conditions saw a late season by and large producing fresh wines of remarkable intensity, depth and balance. It is a very special year and one that will age extremely well.

2021 Dash Farm, Mt Alexander, Central Victoria, Chardonnay

Planted 1999 Dash Farms sits perched at over 450m asl on the Southern granitic slopes of Mt Alexander (Leanganook) looking back towards Mt Macedon and the Macedon Ranges. Like Ray-Monde, it sits just outside the Macedon Ranges GI. Ripening for Chardonnay occurs around a week earlier than my family’s vineyard Cobaw Ridge.

These lean granite soils and high altitude confer both concentration and freshness at low sugar levels.

Once hand harvested with careful sorting in the vineyard, the bunches were partially crushed by foot and very gently pressed. Overnight settling then occurs before transfer to a combination of new Stockinger 300l oak and Burgundian piece for fermentation and lees ageing for 12 months.

Followed by four months in stainless steel on fine lees, before racking and bottling, unfiltered and unfiltered. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulphur.

Pale, with a green edge Dash Farm offers glass filling aromas of lemon and grapefruit rind, nectarine, jasmine and spice. Flavours with carry through to the medium bodied palate combined with creamy, savoury complexity and a fine acid line.

12.5% alcohol 330 dozen produced \$65

2021 Doug’s Vineyard. Romsey. Macedon Ranges. Pinot Noir

Viticulture: Lutte raisonnee/sustainable

Doug's Vineyard is situated on the outskirts of the township of Romsey, in the Macedon Ranges. Owned by the Newnham family it was planted 20 years ago to predominantly MV6 and smaller amounts of 114 and 115 clone pinot noir.

A cool hamlet, the vines sit at around 500m altitude, atop a North and North East facing hillside on red rocky volcanic basalt soil, moderating vigour and providing amazing intensity to the fruit, ripening small, beautifully formed clusters at low sugar levels.

Once hand harvested in the cool of morning, with careful sorting in the vineyard, 100% was transferred as whole cluster to open fermenters. The must was then allowed to soak 4-5 days at its cool ambient temperature until fermentation commenced. There after the grapes were gently extracted by a combination of pumping over and pigage by foot.

The wine then pressed after a total of three weeks on skins and transferred to two new (Laurent "Magic Cask" thick stave, blonde toast) seven young (2-4yo Laurent "Magic Cask") and ten old (6-10yo) oak Burgundian piece for lees ageing for 12 months, followed by four months in stainless steel on fine lees. Before racking and bottling, unfinned and unfiltered. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulphur.

Deep, dark ruby. Classical and very typical of Doug's Vineyard, but deeper and more concentrated and brooding than previous releases.

Sombre and deep, with black raspberry and maraschino cherry depth complexed by the typical exotic spice of Doug's Vineyard. Structured by abundant silky tannin and fresh acidity. One of the most powerful vintages of this wine to day, though also one most well defined, owing to the cool, late season. As a young wine it will greatly reward time in the glass or decanter.

13.5% alcohol 330 dozen produced \$65

2021 Ray-Monde Vineyard, South Gisborne. Port Phillip. Pinot Noir

Viticulture: Lutte raisonnee/sustainable, no synthetic fungicides or herbicides.

The Ray-Monde Vineyard was established in 1988 by the Lakey family, in South Gisborne at 400m above sea level on the Southern edge of the Macedon Ranges GI, to which it once belonged. The gently North-East facing 5ha of Pinot Noir form a small part of the 230ha grazing farm now managed by John and Tristia Lakey, on which sheep, cattle, chicken and more are reared, with an emphasis on sustainable grazing and re-vegetation.

Like Captains Creek, this is another true mixed farm, and I'm privileged to be able to purchase fruit.

The vineyard is unique for the area, being planted gravelly ironstone and basaltic clay soils, with very little top soil and a huge amount of “Bluestone” rock just below the surface. This lean soil together with vine age results in incredibly concentrated grapes, with thick skins and ripe stems even at low sugar levels. Typically, ripening occurs around a week earlier than Doug’s Vineyard.

Once hand harvested in the cool of morning, with careful sorting in the vineyard, 100% was transferred as whole cluster to open fermenters. The must was then allowed to soak 4-5 days at its cool ambient temperature until fermentation commenced. There after the grapes were gently extracted by a combination of pumping over and pigage by foot.

The wine then pressed after a total of three weeks on skins and transferred to a single new (Laurent “Magic Cask” thick stave, blonde toast) one one year old Stockinger 300l and three old (6-10yo) oak Burgundian piece for lees ageing for 12 months. Followed by four months in stainless steel on fine lees, before racking and bottling, unfiltered and unfiltered. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulphur.

Garnet. Ray-Monde is filled with the aromas and flavours of black cherry, kirsch, violet, spice, sweet damp earth and peat. Medium bodied with long, fine, silky tannin it is a very “gourmand” wine.

Approachable in youth due to the beautiful balance, the tannic presence and quality suggest it should also age gracefully, gaining additional complexity along the journey.

13% alcohol 300 dozen produced \$65

2021 Dash Farm, Mt Alexander, Central Victoria, Cabernet Sauvignon

Planted 1999 Dash Farms sits perched at over 450m asl on the Southern granitic slopes of Mt Alexander (Leanganook) looking back towards Mt Macedon and the Macedon Ranges. Like Ray-Monde, it sits just outside the Macedon Ranges GI. An extremely late ripening site for Cabernet Sauvignon, the fruit was harvested in late April.

Hand harvested with strict fruit sorting in the vineyard, bunches were the 100% destemmed and partially foot crushed before loading into open fermenters where they remained for three weeks. The must was allowed to soak until natural fermentation commenced and then extracted with a combination of pumping over, delestage and pigage before basket pressing.

Elevage took place in a combination of new Stockinger 300l (30%) and seasoned thin staved Bordeaux coopered barriques for 12 months, before four months in stainless steel after assemblage. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulphur.

The mountainside nature of Dash Farm provides incredible freshness to the wine. Deep, inky purple with intense violet, seaweed and cassis, and graphite, sweet herb and spice attest to the cool nature of the site.

Only medium weight though remarkably intense it presents as the most “Claret” style of the three Cabernet Sauvignon cuvees, full of small dark berry fruit with fine gravelly tannins.

Incredibly satisfying in youth for its dark fruit and freshness, this cuvee will reward with additional complexity with medium term cellaring.

13% alcohol 300 dozen produced \$50

2021 Shay's Flat Cabernet Sauvignon, Landsborough, Pyrenees

Viticulture: Certified Biodynamic

The Shay's Flat Vineyard is situated on an elevated and picturesque ridge in the heart of the Pyrenees. A distinctively Australian setting with the vineyard surrounded by wheat paddocks, native bushland and scrub. The 20+ year old vines are rooted deep into mineral rich shale, quartz and mudstone soils, growing powerful, yet detailed fruit. It is the second to ripen of the three Cabernet Sauvignon sites.

I have a distinct soft spot for the Cabernet wines produced in the 70's and 80's by the pioneering wineries of Central and Western Victoria, many of which seem ageless even now.

Once hand harvested the fruit was entirely destemmed, then partially foot crushed before transfer to open fermenters where it remained for three weeks. The must was allowed to soak until natural fermentation commenced and was then extracted with a combination pumping over, delestage and pigage before basket pressing.

Elevage took place in a combination of new Stockinger 300l (30%) and seasoned thin staved Bordeaux coopered barriques for 12 months, before four months in stainless steel after assemblage. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulphur.

Deep, dark purple. Reticent on opening, aeration shows intense sour cherry and cassis, mulberry, lavender and black olive with a sweet mint top note and alluring graphite complexity. A compact and palate opens with time to reveal deep dark berry and cherry fruit, before a rumble of fine layered tannin and cleansing acidity with a persistent trail of graphite, dark cocoa and Dutch liquorice.

Please decant well prior to drinking, while cellaring will reveal more nuance and complexity.

13% alcohol 300 dozen produced \$65

2021 Balgownie Old Vines, Maiden Gully, Bendigo, Cabernet Sauvignon

Balgownie Vineyard is a name that should need no introduction to lovers of Victorian wine, an icon of the 70's and 80's it has produced some of the most remarkable mature Australian wines I have had the pleasure of drinking. Indeed my cellar is well stocked with them thanks to 10+ years of collecting.

Established 1969 200m asl near the banks of Myers Creek in Maiden Gully on Ordovician shale, quartz and ironstone rubble, thanks to current winemaker Tony Winspear it now supplies me a small amount of old vine Cabernet Sauvignon from some of the earliest plantings, 1970.

“This vineyard is a national treasure - it has the ability to produce reds from cabernet sauvignon and shiraz that cellar with the elegance and longevity to rival anything in Australia”
Jeremy Oliver www.jeremyoliver.com.au

The first to ripen of the three Cabernet Sauvignon sites, these old vines and special place deliver fruit of extreme concentration and complexity. Harvest occurred around three weeks earlier than Shay's flat.

Once hand harvested the fruit was entirely destemmed, then partially foot crushed before transfer to open fermenters where it remained for three weeks. The must was allowed to soak until natural fermentation commenced and was then extracted with a combination pumping over, delestage and pigage before basket pressing.

Elevage took place in a combination of new Stockinger 300l (30%) and seasoned thin staved Bordeaux coopered barriques for 12 months, before four months in stainless steel after assemblage. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulphur.

Deep, dark garnet. A wine which immediately makes one sit up and focus. Incredibly refined and complex with iron, sweet cassis, cedar spice, violet and rose, air reveals infinite nuance and detail. The palate is flooded with wave upon wave of Cabernet fruit, braced by a strict but not overbearing tannic structure, finishing with sweet violet and cassis. The most refined of the three Cabernet cuvees, but also the most concentrated and finally balanced.

Please decant well prior to drinking, or cellar for as long as you like.

13% alcohol 300 dozen produced \$100