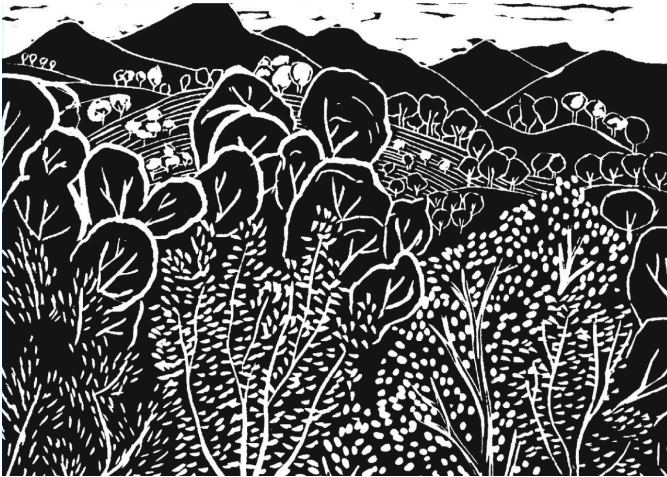


JOSHUA COOPER

MACEDON RANGES & SURROUNDS



Shortlisted - Best New Winery of the Year
Halliday Wine Companion Awards 2024

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

“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

“Such a talent, he could choose anywhere to make wine yet Macedon Ranges is home.”
Jane Faulkner Wine Companion June 2023

SINGLE VINEYARD RELEASE 2022

A worthy follow-up to 2021, these two vintages are a pigeon pair in terms of style, weight and ripeness. Again, there was ever-present disease pressure due to cooler weather. This resulted in lower yields in some vineyards, though also provided enhanced aromatics, detail and freshness.

This is quite easily my most exciting release to date, due to the breadth and quality of the wines, as well as the inclusion of three very special new wines: Redbank, Greytown and the Williams Vineyard. Each has its own storied past and cellaring pedigree. Combined with the Balgownie 1970 Block bottling, they provide a fantastic snapshot of the landscapes of Central and Western Victoria through the lens of Old Vine Cabernet Sauvignon.

Pleasingly the wines of last release, the 2021 vintage, have continued to find universal critical acclaim, while also being poured in Australia's finest dining establishments and exported world wide to 15 different countries. We have also been shortlisted for the Best New Winery award in the upcoming 2024 James Halliday Wine Companion.

Two important considerations about this year's release:

- Ray-Monde: in my eyes, the best example from this great site I've yet bottled - I urge lovers of prior vintages to stock up without haste, especially as the wine was sadly not able to be produced in 2023.
- Due to the extremely limited quantity of chardonnay produced, it will essentially be available only direct from the winery, or at the table of one of our many fine restaurant and wine bar customers. Please order as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

2022 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.

This is then 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.

Pale with a green edge, Dash Farm offers glass filling aromas of crushed rock lemon and grapefruit rind, jasmine and spice. Flavours carry through to a dense and powerful palate with savoury complexity and a fine acid line.

12.5% alcohol - 150 dozen produced - \$75/bottle

2022 Doug's Vineyard, Romsey, Macedon Ranges, Pinot Noir

Viticulture: 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, grapes were transferred to open fermenter with 20% as whole bunches and the remainder de-stemmed. The must was then allowed to soak 4-5 days at its cool ambient temperature until fermentation commenced. Thereafter the grapes were gently extracted by a combination of pumping over and pigage by foot.

The wine was 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.

Pale ruby. Classical and very typical of Doug's Vineyard, a very elegant and ethereal release.

Fragrant and subtle with raspberry, and red cherry fruits complexed by sous bois and the typical exotic spice of Doug's Vineyard. Structured by silky tannin and fresh acidity and offering great charm in its youthful vigour, medium term aging or decanting will greatly reward.

13% alcohol - 330 dozen produced - \$75/bottle

2022 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, grapes were transferred to open fermenter with 20% as whole bunches and the remainder de-stemmed. The must

was then allowed to soak 4-5 days at its cool ambient temperature until fermentation commenced. Thereafter the grapes were gently extracted by a combination of pumping over and pigage by foot.

The wine was then pressed after a total of three weeks on skins and transferred to a single new (Laurent “Magic Cask” thick stave, blonde toast), single one-year-old Stockinger 3001 and three old (6-10yo) oak Burgundian piece for lees ageing for 12 months. This was 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.

Bright garnet. Ray-Monde is filled with the aromas and flavours of black cherry, kirsch, violet, and spice. Medium bodied with long, fine, silky tannin, it is a very “gourmand” wine, yet fantastically fresh and brightly lit.

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.

12.5% alcohol - 225 dozen produced - \$75/bottle

2022 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 then 100% de-stemmed 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 3001 (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 cuvées, full of small dark berry fruit with fine gravelly tannins. Incredibly satisfying in youth for its dark fruit and freshness, this cuvée will reward with additional complexity with medium term cellaring.

13% alcohol - 225 dozen produced - \$50/bottle

2022 Flynn and Cooper - Williams Vineyard, Kyneton, Macedon Ranges, Cabernet Sauvignon

Planted in the 1970s, the Williams Vineyard is centrally located within the region, just adjacent to the township of Kyneton. Initially planted by the late Laurie Williams, forefather of Macedon Ranges viticulture and later managed by regional (and international, if you ask him) icon Alec Epis. The vineyard has a long history of producing fine, medium weight, age worthy wines under the Flynn and Williams and then Epis and Williams banners.

This wine is a collaboration between myself and friend Tim Flynn, a fellow local whose father was the winemaker for the original Flynn and Williams wines.

This is very likely to be the last vintage of wine bottled from what is a very significant site.

Hand harvested with strict fruit sorting in the vineyard, bunches were then 100% de-stemmed 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 one year old Stockinger 3001 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.

Vivid purple. Initially reticent until time and aeration reveal perfectly ripened blackcurrant and blood plum fruits, sweet baking spices and cedar, the faintest hint of mint combined with a ferrous complexity.

Refined, firm grainy tannin shapes the wine elegantly, drawing to a finish of superb length and clarity.

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

13% alcohol - 80 dozen produced - \$100/bottle

2022 Shays Flat, Landsborough, Pyrenees, Cabernet Sauvignon

Viticulture: Certified organic

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 70s and 80s by the pioneering wineries of Central and Western Victoria, many of which seem ageless even now.

Once hand harvested the fruit was entirely de-stemmed, 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. Reticent on opening, aeration shows intense sour cherry and cassis, mulberry, lavender and black olive with a sweet mint top note and alluring graphite and terracotta complexity. A compact and powerful palate opens with time to reveal layers of deep dark berry and red cherry fruit, before a rumble of fine layered tannin and cleansing cherry pit acidity with a persistent trail of graphite, dark cocoa and Dutch liquorice.

The clarity and length of flavour and added depth and quality of tannin mark this as a very special wine, the best yet from this site.

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

13% alcohol - 330 dozen produced - \$75/bottle

2022 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 70s and 80s, 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 from 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 Shays Flat.

Once hand harvested the fruit was entirely de-stemmed, 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. 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 and a wave of perfume. The most refined of the six Cabernet cuvées, but also the most concentrated and finally balanced. A very worthy follow up to

the 2021 vintage and a wine that displays my most prized characteristics - effortless complexity and power without weight.

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

13% alcohol - 350 dozen produced - \$100/bottle

2022 Redbank 1970s Vines, Redbank, Pyrenees, Cabernet Sauvignon

Another vineyard which needs no introduction to lovers of classic Victorian wines. Still farmed and managed by founder Neill Robb, much like Balgownie it has been a bastion of quality since establishment. The wines also enjoy a similar track record of cellaring.

The vineyard has been dry grown since planting, with vine roots now stretching deep into the hillside soil - largely composed of shale and mudstone, with a iron rich surface layer of ochre red loam, essential for its water holding capacity.

Once hand harvested the fruit was entirely de-stemmed, 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%), Spanish stoneware jars 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.

Impenetrable garnet. Subtle and restrained, though incredibly distinctive. Redbank slowly reveals layer after layer - cassis, new leather, warm terracotta, fig and blood plum. The most elegant of Black Holes of aroma and flavour.

Fine and layered tannin coats the mouth, carrying inky, ferrous complexity and blood plum fruit.

Redbank eloquently evokes the iron rich red loams, shale and wild scrub of this part of the Pyrenees.

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

13.5% alcohol - 350 dozen produced - \$100/bottle

2022 Greytown Old Vines, Greytown, Heathcote, Syrah/Cabernet Sauvignon

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

The Greytown Vineyard was planted in the northeastern corner of the (now) Heathcote region in the 1950s by European migrants, importantly planting was carried out in the traditional manner, sans irrigation and as a field blend. In this case Syrah vines interspersed with an unknown proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon. The aim being to harvest the site as a whole, capturing a more nuanced expression of place and season. Amongst the oldest plantings in the area the vines have found a happy home in the deep alluvial soils.

Stylistically inspired by the Syrah-Cabernet blends of the South of France, especially one of my favourite wines - Domaine Trevallon.

Once hand harvested the fruit was entirely de-stemmed, 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 one year old Stockinger thick staved 600l (30%), Spanish stoneware jars 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.

Glistening purple, the two varieties combine wonderfully lending the pepper, spice and plushness of Syrahs fruit, with the strictness and refinement of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Aromas of cracked black pepper, sweet new leather, baking spices, lavender, thyme, and a sprig of mint fill the glass. Australian garrigue. Sweet and fleshy black cherry fruits are ensconced in layers of fine pliant tannin, with the firm backbone and sense of freshness and refinement only Cabernet Sauvignon can bring.

A wine entirely unique to its place and landscape, old vines, co-planted with great foresight in a cooler pocket of the region.

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

14% alcohol - 330 dozen produced - \$100/bottle