

# **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](http://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](http://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**

### **NEWS**

Vintage 2021 significantly, marks my tenth harvest starting with a single barrel of chardonnay, production now sits around 2000 dozen. It’s now with great pride I can announce a huge step forward was taken over the Christmas period with the purchase of a block of land in Drummond, half way between Daylesford and Kyneton at almost 600m asl and overlooking the valley home to the regions first modern vineyard, Virgin Hills. The soil is comprised Ortovician sandstone, mudstone, quartz and clay and planting will commence with high density blocks of pinot noir and chardonnay beginning next spring. These wines will be a fascinating contrast to the existing range, and will be labelled Stone Hills Farm.

The year presented some other nice surprises amongst the uncertainty of the pandemic. Some highlights were being named Gourmet Traveller’s Young Winemaker of The Year for 2020, while its a lovely endorsement of the wines I’ve been making over the last almost ten years, if feel the award is much more a great endorsement of the special vineyards I am lucky enough to work with. The full profile can be found here: <http://gourmettravellerwine.com/winemaker-of-the-year-2020/joshua-cooper.html>

Inclusion in the “Twelve Wineries To Watch” in Wine & Spirits Magazines 34th annual buying guide, as well as the 2018 Old Port Righ chardonnay being included in their Top 100 Wines of The Year.

Similarly two wines were selected in James Sucklings Top 100 Australian Wines of The Year, 2019 Old Port Righ Vineyard and 2019 Doug’s Vineyard, with editor Nick Stock stating, “and while there are many classically established, credentialed and highly evolved wines in this year’s Top 100 Australian wines, there are many newer names like Joshua Cooper...making the grade.”

Robert Parkers Wine Advocate was also full of praise, with Australian Editor Joe Czerwinski, “from Victoria, Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs...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.”

Though now long gone its a very pleasing reception and further highlights the quality of these vineyards. Each of the wines have found themselves at home in many of the finest restaurants in Australia and abroad.

Export markets now include, England, Canada, Italy, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, China, Japan, USA and Denmark, Malaysia, Singapore and Brazil.

## **SINGLE VINEYARD PINOT AND CHARDONNAY RELEASE 2021**



## **Vintage 2020**

2020 will obviously be memorable, and through the lens of wine it is no different. By good fortune we were spared and smoke or fire damage, but felt the full force of poor flowering conditions in November 2019. Creating a crop on average one third of the size of “normal.” This sadly means no chardonnay cuvees were able to be produced, and very small volumes of pinot noir, syrah, and a very exciting new wine for me, cabernet sauvignon. Though the crop was small I feel very fortunate to have at least been able to produce something, and at this early stage wines that look to be of exceptional quality. These are wines of flesh, texture and deep fruit, they are delicious now, with bright acidities and seamless tannin, while should also age very surely.

### **2020 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 ruby. Classical and very typical of Doug's Vineyard, but slightly deeper and more brooding than previous releases.

Aromatically filled with the typical exotic spice, rose, clod earth and sweet herbs and concentrated sour cherry and raspberry fruit. Long, fine and deep, with a firm silky tannic brace and cleansing, sappy acidity. As a young wine it will greatly reward time in the glass or decanter.

This expression of this special site and should have a long life ahead of it.

**12.5% alcohol 300 dozen produced \$60/bottle**

### **2020 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, 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, 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.

**12.5% alcohol 100 dozen produced \$60/bottle**

**EXTREMELY LIMITED**

### **2020 The Springs, Tooborac. Heathcote. Syrah**

Full of exotic herbs and spices, clove, pepper, black olive, wafts of smoke, scorched earth, rose and violet, blackberry and red cherry fruit. This is a deep and structured vintage of The Springs, with a lovely balance of tannin, acid and dark fruit. Please decant well if drinking young.

**13.5% alcohol 150 dozen produced \$40/bottle**

“The releases are tiny, so get in quickly. These are classic, medium-weight wines of elegance and purity, with an Old World self-confidence and a carefully measured degree of winemaking input.”

**Jeremy Oliver [www.jeremyoliver.com](http://www.jeremyoliver.com)**

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