

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 jamessuckling.com 2020

“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

“...Using grapes bought in from carefully chosen, non mainstream sources...very much part of the new younger generation natural cork (DIAM- 30) and wax contingent. However difficult the bottles may be to get into, their contents are pretty impressive.)

Jancis Robinson, The Cool Macedon Ranges with Max, April 2018

NEWS

Vintage 2020, already my ninth harvest is now tucked away safe and sound amid the current turmoil of the World. 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. 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.

A very nice post vintage surprise was 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>

Though now long gone the previous vintage wines have received a very pleasing reception. Each of the wines have found themselves at home in many of the finest restaurants in Australia and abroad.

And a particular highlight, the 2016 vintage of Doug's Vineyard was offered by the glass in New York's Eleven Madison Park, the first time for an Australian wine. At the time the restaurant had just reopened from renovations and held the title of Number 2 Restaurant in the World in the annual San Pellegrino Worlds Best 50 awards.

The last two vintages of Captains Creek vineyard Chardonnay appeared in the top handful of wines in the now annual Winefront Chardonnay Year in Review. A great result for only the second and third vintages of this wine. Especially considering I was only 28 years old in the 2017 vintage.

The full article is a fantastic read on the contemporary state of Chardonnay in Australia and can be found here for subscribers:

<https://www.winefront.com.au/twf-chardonnay-in-2019-the-year-in-review/>

97 – Giaconda Chardonnay 2017, Hutton Triptych Reserve Chardonnay 2018, Joshua Cooper Captains Creek Chardonnay 2017,

96+ – Pierro Vintage Reserve Chardonnay 2015, By Farr GC Cote Vineyard Chardonnay 2017, Joshua Cooper Captains Creek Chardonnay 2018, Fraser Gallop Palladian Chardonnay 2017, Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay 2016,

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

Some recent reviews of the 2018 vintage wines below:

2018 Special Reserve Chardonnay

It's a small blend of the single vineyard wines, bottled after 2 years on lees. About 60% Port Rígh, 20% Captains Creek and 20% Cope-Williams. Flavour.

Nutty, brine, ripped with acidity, preserved lemon, some spice, chalky feel, roast pumpkin and seeds, green apple and lime, creamy in with it, and very long. Such a different style to the mainstream, and very good.

95 Points Gary Walsh www.winefront.com.au

2018 Captains Creek Vineyard Chardonnay

Yes thanks. Fragrant white of lemon juice, vanilla, green apple, floral things and a faint whiff of nougat. Focused and tight in the palate, racy almost but for the drizzle of saline minerality and a pretty, flavoursome finish. Serious feeling in a leaner spectrum but not without flavour and detail. Killer wine – does everything so righteously.

96 points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.au

Bright, light to mid-yellow colour with a complex, toasty, nutty and gently smoky bouquet, the palate rich and layered, with excellent weight and density, texturally rich and supple. Good line, length and energising acidity. A superb wine.

94 points Huon Hooke huonhooke.com

2018 Old Port Righ Vineyard Chardonnay

Smells like crushed rocks, flint, green apple and citrus with a faint blossom floral lift. Pretty. Has some juiciness in the palate, a little more relaxed in feel with saline characters, stony-slatey things and a feel of green apple juice splashed lightly over all of that. Serious. Touches of reduction/wet slate happening too. Amazing persistence. Tightly bound wine needs some time to evolve and open.

95 points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.au

Bright, deepish yellow colour with savoury, toasted hazelnut development, a touch of smoky reduction. The palate is rich and full-bodied, deep and firm, with a good backbone and intensity of flavour which persists long on the aftertaste. A trace of chewy grip. Excellent.

95 points Huon Hooke huonhooke.com

The concentration of the fruit, at 1.4 tons per acre, sets up the initial dark-toned flavour, a complex mix of struck match, malt, rice and orange spice. With air, a youthful energy takes over, delivering fresh flavours of peach fuzz, tart apricot and lasting chamomile savour. It's a substantial wine that feels sprightly and keeps getting better over the course of a week. If you find some, cellar it.

95 Points Joshua Greene Wine and Spirits Magazine (USA) October issue

2018 Cope-Williams Vineyard Chardonnay

Very saline and racy, green apple and preserved lemon, toasted hazlenuts, whisper of struck match. It has zing and tingle, a lot of flint and brine, intense acidity, but set diamond-like through luxurious flavour. Again that spice and toasted hazelnut, a dollop of oatmeal, grip, lemon pith and superb length as it goes. You have to like them falling more to savoury/saline than simply fruit-sweet, but the precision and power here is really something.

96 points Gary Walsh www.winefront.com.au

Medium to full yellow colour, bright. The bouquet is grapefruity and very mineral-stony, quartz-like and quite different to the same maker's Port Righ chardonnay. It's more fruit-driven. Creamy lees, too. The palate is commensurately tight and fine, crisp and dry, with a delicious lemony juiciness

and a fine, long finish. With its sprightly acidity and leanness, it has a Chablis-like styling. A magical wine!

96 points Huon Hooke huonhooke.com

Tight and youthful, this wine yields its floors several days after the bottle is first opened, going from tart lemon, lemongrass and scallion toward fresh, succulent pear and peach flavours. The fruit has the cooling clarity of a summer rain, though it takes a long time to arrive at that clarity. Based on its stubborn but measured resistance to oxygen, this should evolve well.

93 Points Joshua Greene Wine and Spirits Magazine (USA) October issue

2018 Rose of Doug's Vineyard

Fleshy, creamy rose of substance and full flavour. Strawberry and cream kind of vibe, supple, shows some bright acidity through the fuller figure of the wine and it all up stains the palate with light sweetness though it finishes bright and dry. A yeasty, nutty character woven through all this. Lovely stuff. Yep, serious rose.

94 points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.au

2018 Ray-Monde Vineyard Pinot Noir

Wow. This looks amazing, feels amazing, drinks amazing. Straight up. Has that slightly agricultural feel to it, savouriness, Autumnal, blood and meat and earth over the sour-ish cherry characters, brambles and undergrowth in the mix, so too amazing and pleasing bitter notes of angelica and wormwood or similar. That being said, the take home is that texture. So moreish, cuddling the palate with corduroy texture and cool acidity to reset again. Outstanding.

96 points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.au

Medium-depth ruby colour with a tinge of brick-red. The bouquet is foresty and soft, ripe, chocolatey and plummy. It's nicely textured and supple, with abundant tannins which are drying yet soft, the finish quite long. The tannins help extend it. Good wine, in a style that somewhat de-emphasises primary fruit.

90 points Huon Hooke huonhooke.com

Aged in Burgundy barrels, the wine is still marked by the oak, but behind it is a gentle pinot, with fresh scents of crushed green peppercorn and anise, and hard granite edges, fleshy enough to stand with carnitas.

90 Points Joshua Greene Wine and Spirits Magazine (USA) October issue

2018 Doug's Vineyard Pinot Noir

Smoky notes, dried green herbs, black berries on brambles, game meat notes. Great start. Savoury sense. Fleshy texture, sweet-ripe but fresh fruit flavours, supple through its long flow then tightens on a web of surprising, grippy-graphite tannins. Serious pinot noir here. Tightly wound. Intense. Long-lived.

94 points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.au

Medium-depth ruby colour. The bouquet is strong on rhubarb, beetroot, aromas. Gun-flint mineral notes build in the glass. There's evidence of substantial whole-bunch inclusion in the ferment. The palate is soft and plummy, with chocolate and vanilla nuances, the finish lingers well with a refreshing trace of Campari-like bitterness. A satisfying pinot

94 points Huon Hooke huonhooke.com

Concentration is immediately apparent in the wine, its meaty power delivering complexity in scents of roses and black tea along with a vibrant spike of cranberry and black current flavour. This is broad and rich, made with whole clusters and without any additions other than some sulphur. Decant it to enjoy with crispy roast duck.

93 Points Joshua Greene Wine and Spirits Magazine (USA) October issue

SINGLE VINEYARD PINOT AND CHARDONNAY RELEASE 2020



Vintage 2019

While the 2019 vintage wines show remarkable balance and grace the season was far from settled. After a dry winter and Spring, revitalising rain arrived in November-December standing the vines in good stead for January's barrage of heat, the hottest on record. Due to the cool climate of the Macedon Ranges fruit was yet to commence veraison in this period, mitigating the risk of jammy overripe flavours. February and March were comparatively wonderfully mild and it's this period that really made the wines. Allowing a slow progression of crispness and flavour while retaining acidity and detail.

2019 Cope-Williams Vineyard. Romsey. Macedon Ranges. Chardonnay

Viticulture: Lutte raisonnee/sustainable

Situated on a flat just across the gully from Doug's Vineyard, Cope-Williams was planted in 1982 (its original incarnation was 1977) at 490m altitude on deep, free draining red basalt loam. Unirrigated since 1988, this site delivers fruit with powerful intensity and incredibly fine balance.

Again, due to the cool, windy nature of the site, the fruit typically ripens at a low sugar level, with small berries, thick skins and with a high proportion of millerandange and hen and chicken.

Once hand harvested in the cool of morning, with careful sorting in the vineyard, the grapes are partially foot crushed then very gently, slowly pressed over five or so hours. The juice was then settled for 24 hours then racked with all but the very coarse solids to one new Stockinger thick staved 600l demi-muid, seasoned Burgundian piece, and two second fill 300l Stockinger Hogs Heads.

The wine sees one year in oak on full lees, no stirring, and no racking, then transferred to stainless steel with all the fine lees for a further four months elevage. Before racking and bottling, unfinned and unfiltered, a small dose of sulphur the only addition.

As is typical of my chardonnays the Cope-Williams opens with subtle crushed stone and struck match aromas, slowly revealing green apple and grapefruit pith, white flowers and flashes of green almond. An incredibly intense and linear wine the persistent fruit is cleansed by a seemingly endless flow of glassy acidity. A long decant is recommended if drinking young, but cellaring is recommended.

12.5% alcohol 300 dozen produced \$60/bottle VERY LIMITED

This is insanely delicious. It wins the millionth customer award where streamers and confetti fall from the ceiling. It's the texture of Persian fairy floss, ok, that's obscure, but it feels glassy, crisp, lacy at once, and delivers this high tensile crunch like the rim of a Zalto glass bitten off in your teeth. The flavours are saline, nutty, some green apple, a touch of natural yoghurt, but savouriness is the forte and acidity is the trump card. Boil this prose down and you have something so brilliantly drinkable, unique feeling and beautifully poised between its elements, while remaining expressive and kinda wild. Jeepers, onto something here

96 Points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.au

Bright, light yellow colour. The bouquet has almond meal, pear-like and toast aromas that are superbly fresh and refined. This continues in the mouth where it's delicate yet intense, beautifully harmonious and refined with seamless texture and extended length. A gorgeous chardonnay, already drinking superbly but with a bright future ahead of it.

95 Points Huon Hooke therealreview.com

A complex nose with everything from oyster shell to freshly sliced pears, wet stones, melon, apples and yellow-grapefruit zest. The palate has crystal-like clarity and depth with such succulent and tautly delivered grapefruit and pear flavours. Very refined and mineral at the finish.

95 Points Nick Stock jamesuckling.com

2019 Captains Creek Vineyard. Blampied. Western Victoria (Ballarat). Chardonnay

Viticulture: Certified organic (NASAA)

The Captains Creeks Vineyard is situated in Blampied, 10km west of Daylesford, and thus just outside the Macedon Ranges GI. Locally this area becomes part of the unofficial Ballarat region, however technically it is classed as the Western Victoria Zone, an anomaly in our young and somewhat arbitrary regional system.

The vineyard is farmed by Doug and Carolyn May, planted in the friable basalt loam of the property in 1994, and is part of the broader Captains Creek farm. Owned by the May family since 1909 and certified organic (NASAA) since 1985, it now grows an array of vegetables on the lower, more fertile areas, as well as being home to live-stock and orchards.

The vineyard is planted to pinot noir and chardonnay on a raised well-drained northerly slope, at around 500m altitude, close to the modern farmstead and covers 4ha.

Captains Creek is a remarkable, true, mixed farming family enterprise and I am lucky enough to be able to purchase a small parcel of fruit each year.

Due to the cool, windy nature of the site, the fruit typically ripens at a low sugar level, with small berries, thick skins and with a high proportion of millerandage and hen and chicken.

Once hand harvested in the cool of morning, with careful sorting in the vineyard, the grapes are partially foot crushed then very gently, slowly pressed over four or so hours.

The juice was then settled for 24 hours then racked with all but the very coarse solids to Burgundian piece, and Stockinger thick staved 600l demi-muid.

The wine sees one year in oak on full lees, no stirring, and no racking, then transferred to stainless steel with all the fine lees for a further four months elevage. Before racking and bottling, unfinned and unfiltered. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulphur.

Opening with aromas of faint crushed rock and flint, lemon balm, and perfectly ripened white stone fruit, this vintage shows brilliant clarity and length, with a savoury element provided by the cool climate and basalt soils, and an amplification in depth due to the season.

12.5% alcohol 120 dozen produced \$60/bottle **SOLD OUT**

A flavoursome yet relatively lean chardonnay, offers up green apple, light nougat character, prickly, saline mineral vein through it all and a flinty finish. A wine of character without being too overt, a little waxy in texture, lingering far beyond each sip. Very good chardonnay, a little more square than other Josh Cooper releases, but ain't nothing wrong with that. The top line message can read, 'chardonnay showing flavour, thank you'.

94 Points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.au

Light, bright yellow hue. The bouquet is fresh and clean and discreet with understated stone-fruit aromas, the flavours similar. Lovely wine, with purity and intensity, the flavour flowing on for a long time. Excellent flavour, intensity, purity and length. A smart young chardonnay that should reward a little cellaring.

94 Points Huon Hooke therealreview.com

Very pure lemon-rind and wet-stone notes here, as well as some peach, melon and pear. Sweet-smelling florals, too. The palate has very elegant, focused and gently fleshy style with crisp pears and a hint of lemon to close. Composed at every step.

94 Points Nick Stock jamesuckling.com

2019 The Old Port Righ Vineyard. Lancefield. Macedon Ranges. Chardonnay

Viticulture: Lutte raisonnee/sustainable, no synthetic herbicides, in transition to no synthetic chemical use.

Hand harvested from 37 year old vines on the historic old “Portree Vineyard,” one of the originals of the Macedon Ranges. A late ripening, windblown site at 600m altitude, at the Eastern extremity of the region, just outside township of Lancefield. Unusually for the Macedon Ranges the soils are Cambrian intermixed with patches of granite.

Ben Ranken and his wife Sally Richardson have owned the vineyard since 2014, lovingly nurturing it back to its full potential and renaming the property “Wilimee” under which they label their own wines.

Again, due to the cool, windy nature of the site, the fruit typically ripens at a low sugar level, with small berries, thick skins and with a high proportion of millerandange and hen and chicken.

Once hand harvested in the cool of morning, with careful sorting in the vineyard, the grapes are partially foot crushed then very gently, slowly pressed over four or so hours.

The juice was then settled for 24 hours then racked with all but the very coarse solids to seasoned Burgundian piece, 300l Stockinger Hogs Head and this staved 600l demi-muid.

The wine sees one year in oak on full lees, no stirring, and no racking, then transferred to stainless steel with all the fine lees for a further four months elevage. Before racking and bottling, unfinned and unfiltered. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulphur.

As always, this wine is initially very closed, with crushed stone and struck match predominating over jasmine, citrus and lemon rind, opening to reveal more of the citrus fruit spectrum with some wild mint and coriander nuances. In the mouth, again very tight to begin, with piercing acidity wrapped within the other elements of the wine, relaxing to show the texture faintly gloss and the wine subtly mellow.

12.5 % alcohol 195 dozen produced \$60/bottle SOLD OUT

Beautiful wine, sleek and slim, lemon curd meets green apple, strong talc-like mineral characters, jasmine and frangipani floral notes, faintest salted nutty savouriness in the mix. Rolls epically long, so perfect, so clean, so fine, lots of good inward concentration, general sense of vitality and energy.

Brilliant wine, just missing that extra dimension this year to take it to the next level, but it sits at an epic one anyway.

95 Points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.au

This wine is bold, commanding and so packed with information and vivid structural definition. It has a level of intensity that is just so more-ish. The fruit sits in the pear, tangerine, grapefruit and lemon zone and there's an overlay of savoury honeysuckle, almond bread and nougat with intense, fleshy depth, underpinned by salient acidity that rips the finish in electrifying style. Such deep flavours. Really impressive.

97 Points Nick Stock jamessuckling.com

Light, bright yellow colour leads into an intensely spicy aroma, a touch of almond meal, while the palate has zesty acidity and some gas spritz. It's refined and understated, with vitality and length if not great generosity. A trace of grip to finish.

91 Points Huon Hooke therealreview.com

2019 Rose of Doug's Vineyard. Romsey. Macedon Ranges. Pinot Noir

Viticulture: Lutte raisonnee/sustainable
No synthetic herbicide.

The second rendition of this wine, made from my most prized Pinot Noir fruit, and every bit as serious as the red.

Hand picked and sorted the same day as for the red from Doug's, this portion though underwent a gentle foot crushing, then remained on skins for three days before a long slow pressing. Settled overnight it was then transferred with the fine solids to a single seasoned Burgundian piece for fermentation and elevage for 12 months. Then to stainless steel for four months on fine lees, before racking and bottling, unfinned and unfiltered. The only addition to the wine is a small dose of sulphur the week before bottling.

All the hallmarks of Doug's Vineyard are present. Striking orange-red in the glass and perfumed with exotic spices, rose hip, red cherry and raspberry fruit. While taught and energetic in the mouth, it is also a very tactile and gourmand.

This is a rose wine that can be pondered as much as most reds and take a place on any table. It should also cellar well into the medium term.

12.5% alcohol 23 dozen produced \$60/bottle SOLD OUT

2019 Doug's Vineyard. Romsey. Macedon Ranges. Pinot Noir

Viticulture: Lutte raisonnee/sustainable
No synthetic herbicide.

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% alcohol 450 dozen produced \$60/bottle

It's a pretty Australian thing calling a wine 'Doug's Vineyard', no fancy domaine this or that or something aspiration. Just a piece of dirt with some vines in it that a bloke called Doug farms in Macedon Ranges, Victoria. This feels like it comes from a 'Mac Forbes pick', in that the wine is quite bony, reluctant and tight, lean and lower in alcohol, firm and unyielding in its youth. That being said, it feels like there's lots of detail in the wine, and, importantly, it sure is vibrant. Scents of wet fern, fresh picked green herb, just ripe cranberries, cardamom and, curiously, Worcestershire sauce. The palate is more straight laced, red cherries, sour-ish though, more of that cardamom and

some clove spice, blood orange acidity and something ferrous to close in the whisper of light, puckering tannins. It's racy and strict, pale in its personality, you could say a little thin, but all the detail is there. Needs time, but is beautiful in its shy, quiet way.

94+ Points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.

This is a very complex, fragrant, expressive pinot that leads with red flowers, bright red cherries, some sappy elements, blood oranges, pomegranate and almost chalky minerals. Spicy oak and lightly reductive notes cut the edges. The palate has bracing energy and drive. The tannins have explosive energy and stream red-cherry flavour in three dimensions. Acidity ignites the finish. Wow.

97 Points Nick Stock jamessuckling.com

Deep red colour for a pinot noir, with a good purple tint, and a strongly whole-bunchy bouquet. Lots of humus, undergrowth and other vegetal nuances. Five Spice, too. The palate is medium-full bodied, with the flavour supported by abundant tannins, but there's a 'cool' feel. Refreshing acidity. Good wine, possibly better in time.

92 Points Huon Hooke therealreview.com

2019 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.

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% alcohol 155 dozen produced \$60/bottle SOLD OUT

The vineyard is sustainably, regeneratively farmed and by all conversations a remarkable place and site.

Such charm and ease here. In the parlance of spin bowling, flight and guile. Lofty, fragrant perfume of rose petals, old spice cupboard, kirsch and warm pebbles. The palate is ethereal, feels kind of transparent but the haul of fine, lacy tannins and lingering cherry juice and brown spice flavours layer in perfectly, long and with assertion. It’s a wine for contemplating and taking slow, has the sense of high pedigree that sits you back a bit from wolfing it down. Texture, beauty, joy, all wrapped up in a red liquid. A compelling release – one of Australia’s best pinot noirs.

96 Points Mike Bennie www.winefront.com.au

I like the blueberry, violet and spice nose here. This has very settled, suave and alluring style to it. The palate is smoothly arranged and layered. The core blueberry and dark-cherry flavours sit in an elegant, smoothly resolved texture. The tannins are fine and even. This has Chambolle-like elegance and evenness. Wow.

97 Points Nick Stock jamessuckling.com

Deep red colour (for a pinot) with a good purple tint, and a spice and vegetal bouquet which is tinged by a peaty, iodine-like nuance. There are abundant tannins which build at the finish, leaving an after-impression of sternness and slight lack of sweet fruit. The tannins are very dry on the finish. It has intensity and length, and I suspect a little bottle-age will advantage it.

92 Points Huon Hooke therealreview.com

2018 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. I believe this will be a long lived vintage, open bottles (stored cool with the cork in) will continue to show increased harmony and complexity for a number of days.

14% alcohol 120 dozen produced \$40/bottle

Deep red/purple colour, with a very spicy foresty, sousbois, whole-bunch influenced bouquet. The palate is likewise strong on vegetal foresty, stemmy characters and relegates the primary fruit, while the tannins are abundant and supple. It finishes long and the tannins are slightly furry on the very dry after-palate.

90 points Huon Hooke huonhooke.com

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