

2018 PINOT NOIR (EMERITUS)

GROWING SEASON ~ There was a fairly typical summer with intermittent bursts of heat, but always occasional rain to prevent the vines being stressed. There was no disease pressure and bunches were generally very healthy.

HARVEST \sim The grapes were hand picked in two tranches. The 114 clones was picked on 28th February and the MV6 was picked on the 3rd March. Very little selection of bunches was required, and the yield was about 3.5 t/acre (66 HI/Ha). The Baume varied from 12.5 to 13.0.

WINEMAKING~ Approximately half the grapes were destemmed, and the remainder were left as whole bunches. The grapes were housed in 3t open fermenters and allowed to commence fermentation with wild yeasts. Once the wild fermentation was established (6 days) the cultured yeast RC112 was added. The initial maceration took about two weeks to complete. The grapes were then air bag pressed. Fermentation and post fermentation had the wine going into a mixture of old and new (30%) French oak barriques and hogsheads.

MATURATION \sim The wine was left on its lees for the whole of the maturation period until bottling 11 months later. It underwent a natural malolactic fermentation during this time.

 $\label{eq:assemblage} \textbf{ASSEMBLAGE} \sim \textbf{All barrels were tasted and rated for colour,} \\ \textbf{tannin structure and flavour.}$

BOTTLING ~ The "Emeritus" was filtered prior to bottling under screwcap.

THE WINE~ This wine has quite a deep colour for a Pinot Noir and this translates to the palate where the flavours are to the black fruit end of the spectrum.

COMMENTS \sim The quality of this wine, in my opinion, is as good as anything I have ever produced (It may even be better!). This is further evidence for me that at least in the range of yields this vineyard produces (1-4 tonnes/acre), there is no direct relationship between yield and quality.



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OWNER / WINEMAKER

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