



## 2015 Red Claw Pinot Noir

2014/2015 Growing Season

Winter of 2014 was colder and drier than normal leading to a warm, dry spring that saw good even bud break and consistent healthy shoot growth. While budburst was in line with the previous season, flowering was just more than a week later, reflecting a normal weather pattern that was slightly drier than normal, perfect for flowering and fruit set.

A cooler than average summer coupled with good rain at the right times saw consistent, healthy growth in all blocks. There was no disease pressure observed and the season proceeded in a very, even and pleasing fashion. A very cool dry March led to a longer ripening period allowing for maximum flavour development with good rain occurring at the right time to maintain vine health.

Harvest started on 18 February and the 2015 vintage proceeded exceptionally well.

With the ripening period so even, all fruit was picked in optimum condition.

Bunch and berry weights were ideal and all the fruit arrived at the winery in excellent condition with exceptional fruit flavours and terrific natural acidity. Early indications are that the 2015 vintage will be as good as the highly regarded 2010 and 2012 vintages.



<b>Region</b>	Mornington Peninsula – Tuerong
<b>Alc</b>	14%
<b>Clones</b>	26% MV6, 36% G5V15, 11% Pommard, 12% 115, 10% 114, 5% Abel
<b>pH</b>	3.58
<b>Tit. Acidity</b>	5.3
<b>Winemaker</b>	Tom Carson
<b>Viticulturist</b>	Keith Harris
<b>Harvested</b>	March

### Winemaking

Handpicked, with each parcel handled separately in the winery (a total of 20 individual batches). Hand sorted and carefully destemmed, each parcel went into traditional open fermenters. The wine underwent three days of cold soaking to ensure even and thorough extraction. Batches were on skins for 7-10 days, after which they were transferred into French oak (500L puncheons) for 10 months and prepared for bottling in November 2015.

### Tasting note

Characteristic perfumed, fragrant aromas highlighted by cherry and dark berry fruits complemented by a touch of spice and underlying French oak. The long, silky palate has a lovely elegance and velvety texture, with concentrated red fruit flavours and a finely poised finish.

**94 points – James Halliday**

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