



Sailor Seeks Horse 2020 Pinot Noir

Winemaker: Gilli & Paul Lipscombe

Grape(s): Pinot Noir

GI: Tasmania

Site(s): Estate Vineyard, Huon Valley

Vintage notes: After the Huon's bushfires of 2019, the 2020 was the opposite end of the spectrum. It felt more like a perennial spring and then a quick segue into autumn: they never quite got the warm bit in the middle. Luckily, or unluckily depending on your viewpoint, yields were miniscule and so didn't need a warm summer to get over the proverbial line. Low yields were also a blessing as the COVID-19 pandemic depleted the country of pickers. As the Lipscombes say: "A year of challenges for everyone but sometimes there's a silver lining and we feel our 2020s display the characters of a cooler harvest and tiny yields. Intensity, purity and delicacy."

Vineyard notes: Planted in 2005, the 6.5ha site was abandoned for several years by its original owners before being resuscitated by the Lipscombes. The site had a lot of potential: NE-facing slope, frost free(ish) and well drained sandy-loam soil over clay. After some replanting, the vineyard is now composed of 2 hectares of chardonnay (Dijon clones 277, 76, 95 and 96), with the rest of the vineyard made up of the pinot noir clones 114, 115, MV6, 777, 2051 (D5V12) and 8048 (D2V6). Everything is planted at a density of 4000 vines/ha, which seems about right for the soil capacity. 700mm or so of average annual rainfall provides enough to farm without irrigation. Vines are farmed without synthetic additions.

Winemaking: Hand-picked and destemmed, with 5% whole bunches maintained. Fruit is soaked at ambient temperature (cold in the Huon) and then natural yeast commence the fermentation process. Once the ferment is complete, the Lipscombes taste the wine on skins until the tannin profile is right, and then press straight to barrel. The wine is left unsulphured until late Spring, before a small SO2 add. Aged in 15% new oak.

Closure: Stelvin **ABV:** 12.8%

LEGEND tasting notes: Picking dates are intrinsic to obtaining the energy SSH looks for in their wines – pick too early and you lack the delicious component, pick too late and you lose the moreish part. The 2020 hovers on the edge perfectly, with notes of native riberry, sour red cherry, black plum, smoked truffle, anise, and fern. A delicate balance between red and dark fruits, high-toned aromatics, layered depth and verve.

Production size: 567 cases

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