

WILLIAM DOWNIE

gippsland pinot noir 2023



LEGEND
AUSTRALIAN WINE IMPORTS

Winemaker: William Downie

Grape(s): Pinot Noir

GI: Gippsland

Site: Berrys Creek Vineyard in South Gippsland and Manilla Vineyard in East Gippsland

Vintage notes: The last of three in a series of La Niña vintages, producing higher than average rainfall and cool temperatures. Though botrytis and disease pressure were threats, the vintage rewarded the meticulous with chiseled and precise wines of complexity and elegance.

Vineyard notes: Berrys Creek Vineyard is planted at 6500 vines/ha on red volcanic soil at 150m elevation. It was planted by the Matthews family in 1998. The vineyard is, as of July 2020, certified organic. Yields are always less than 5t/ha. Dry farmed. Manilla vineyard is farmed biodynamically, in the process of certification. Vines planted in 1986, all are cane pruned, no tillage. Completely drygrown on volcanic soils. Manilla is a flat vineyard at 300m elevation, completely enclosed by trees—a natural clos. Light is steady and conditions are mild.

Winemaking: All of the fruit is hand sorted and then fully destemmed. Whole berries are transferred by gravity to both wooden and stainless steel open vats. Fermentation takes place without any additions, temperature control, punch downs or pump overs. The must was pressed after 30 days and then matured in 15% new Australian made French oak barriques. The wine was assembled and a small SO2 addition made before bottling without fining or filtration.

Closure: Diam 5 Origine **ABV:** 13%

LEGEND tasting notes: An elegant and energetic ode to the complexity of Gippsland pinot noir. Nose is aromatic and floral: strawberry gum, wild acacia, brined plum, and fresh black cherry. The palate is filigreed, with a winning combination of detail and scope. Light oak spice knits together the fruit and herbal notes, expressing a complete and fully realized vision of this grape and region.

Label design: All art done by Reg Mombassa, a New Zealand-born, Australian-raised artist and musician.

Production size: 500 dozen