

SAILOR SEEKS HORSE

pinot noir 2023



LEGEND

AUSTRALIAN WINE IMPORTS

Winemaker: Paul & Gilli Lipscombe

Grape(s): Pinot Noir **GI:** Tasmania

Site(s): Estate vineyard in Huon Valley

Vintage notes: The general trend in 2023 was warm and then it cooled off, combining power and finesse at the end of the season, easing into a 'normal' harvest date. In many ways it was a dream growing season apart from the terrible flowering from cool conditions in spring, but that appears to be the new norm for Sailor Seeks Horse.

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: In 2023, the pinot bunches were "the most perfect little nuggets we'd seen since 2018" and the clones displayed such distinction that Sailor Seeks Horse decided to make three different pinot noirs. The estate comprises the Wadenswil and D5 V12 clones with 5% whole bunch. Handpicked, mostly whole berry ferments via wild yeast. Ambient soak, super-gentle plunge twice a day, tasted for tannin alignment post-ferment before pressing when harmonized. 12 months in oak, 27% new oak. Unsulphured until mid-summer and then bottled unfined.

Closure: Stelvin **ABV:** 12.8%

Tasting Notes: 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: 490 dozen