

TOMMY THE PINBALL LIZARD

McLaren Vale • Pinot Noir • 2015



Our friendly winery lizard – affectionately known as Tommy – loves to languish in the cellar by the barrels of juicy black Pinot Noir. No delicate Burgundian ballerina, the wine is a richer, weightier, spicier and more voluptuous version of this grape and we’ve named it after its guardian.

The Story

Who is this eponymous Tommy? None other than the treasured lizard of the winery, who keeps a watchful blink on the warmth of the ferments. You can always find him – he loves to hang out close to the barrels of juicy, black Pinot Noir. Must be the heat, along with the thrumming beat of the rock music that reverberates at all hours in this particular corner of the cellar. Something makes that scaly head bob rhythmically up and down.

The wine – it’s from the McLaren Vale. Tommy liked the vintage – so hot and dry – perfect for catching the sun’s rays and ripening the grapes to dark, black-cherry perfection.

The Wine

Pinot Noir is the prima donna of Burgundy, a very finicky grape that’s just plain picky. Still it doesn’t deter winemakers the world over from trying to emulate the style. In general it prefers not too hot a climate, so for this luscious RedHeads’ Pinot Noir, the team looked to the ocean-cooled vineyards of the McLaren Vale.

Not many growers chance their arm with this variety, preferring instead to grow Shiraz (it’s always in demand). But just a handful like the challenge. This was a parcel of Pinot, only a few rows, with real intensity and ripeness. Not a spot of rot, as there’d hardly been a drop of rain from January til harvest.

Brought into the RedHeads winery the small berries were put into open-top fermenters and hand-plunged before ageing in part new oak barrels for eight months. This has lent the chocolatey, strawberry and cherry fruit a savoury, toasty edge and an underlying creamy layer.

Tasting Note

Dark crimson (deeper than most Pinot Noir), with a pretty summer berry aroma and a chocolatey spice note. Silky and mouthfilling with gorgeous, rich raspberry, cherry and spice and a long luscious finish.

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Grapes: Pinot Noir
Alcohol (abv): 14.0%
Total Acidity: 5.68 g/l

Residual Sugar: 6.26 g/l
Wine pH: 3.95
Cellar Potential: 3 years



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