

Jamsheed 'Illaj' Pinot Noir

Victoria - Australia 2017



Ancient writings tell an endearing tale of Jamsheed, a Persian king who was said to be able to see his kingdom in a cup of wine,

and whose fondness for fresh grapes lead him to store them in jars over winter where they would inevitably spontaneously ferment and be set aside as 'poison'. One of King Jamsheed's harem, despairing of frequent migraines, chooses to commit suicide by drinking from a poisoned jar. She wakes to find herself cured, informing her king who is most pleased and sets about making many jars of 'poison' and thus wine was discovered.

Gary Mills is the visionary, brains and hands behind Jamsheed. His passion took him to the States for what started as a five week harvest intern at Ridge Vineyards in Santa Cruz and turned into a two year full time position under the tutelage of winemaking legend Paul Draper.

For Gary's inaugural vintage of his 'Illaj' Pinot Noir, he sources the fruit directly from the Barwite Vineyards located in the foothills of the Victorian Alps. Established in 1998, this vineyard has a reputation for producing very high quality, cool-climate fruit. It didn't take long for a select group of winemakers to realize the high standard of grapes available from this site. It has since become highly coveted for its Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The soil is comprised of degraded schist over granite. It reaches approximately 410 meters in elevation and experiences windswept conditions. 2017 was a cool, long-hanging vintage producing fruit with naturally high acids and low alcohol levels.

The grapes for the 'Illaj' Pinot Noir are handpicked and whole-bunch fermented in an open top container for 2 weeks. The juice is then pressed to tank to settle and finish, and then racked to old oak for 4 months. Bottled unfiltered and unfined.

Composition

100% Pinot Noir

Vine Age

10 years old

Soil Type

Shale & Schist over Granite

Yields

2.5 tons per acre

Élevage

4 months in French tonneau barrels

Production

1,000 cases

Tasting Notes

“ This is a delicious and wild expression of Victorian Pinot Noir featuring white pepper, rose petal and sage notes that are pretty and fragrant. Juicy acidity runs through the core of wild strawberry, offering freshness and an energetic, refreshing finish. ”

Reviews

Wine Spectator | 90 points