

innocent bystander

Innocent Bystander, Yarra Valley Pinot Noir 2016

PRODUCER

This winery changed hands in May 2016, with one family company, Brown Brothers, taking it off the hands of another, its founder, Phil Sexton. So associated is Innocent Bystander with the Yarra Valley that the new owners have made the intelligent decision to build a new winery in Healesville, just across the parking lot from Giant Steps. And they are quickly signing contracts with all the grape growers that Phil has used for Innocent Bystander so that the style of the wines remains unchanged. That style - wines that are regional and varietal, reflecting the soil, climate and topography of the cool climate in the Yarra Valley - has been the base upon which the reputation of Innocent Bystander has been built.

VINEYARDS

This wine is produced from a number of vineyards that span the Yarra from Paul's Range at Dixons Creek in the north across to Bastard Hill in the very cool southern Upper Yarra. These vineyards were chosen in particular for their high diurnal temperature range, resulting in wines with high natural acidity and low pH. Yields are less than seven tonnes per hectare.

VINTAGE

The Yarra Valley experienced slightly above average rainfall for the 2015 winter. This replenished the soils of much needed moisture leading into the growing season. The dry mild conditions through spring lowered the potential for disease. This enabled us to keep the vineyards in a clean healthy state. Very good yields and excellent quality appeared to be the theme from all vineyards this year.

VINIFICATION

All grapes were hand picked. Due to exceptional fruit quality 40% was fermented as whole bunch. This was a perfect opportunity to harness the whole bunch perfumes of the Yarra. Four day cold soak, a mix of drain and returns and light plunging for 10-12 days. Indigenous fermentation took place in 5 tonne open fermenters and 4 tonne oak vats. The wine was matured in a mix of old barriques and stainless steel tanks. The wine spent four months in French oak.

TASTING NOTES

Boysenberries and cherry. Baked earth, dried spice, juniper and fresh bay tree. On the palate, this wine has dark fruits, thick and juicy. A velvety mouthfeel and a finish of soft savoury tannins.



VINTAGE INFORMATION

Vintage	2016
Region	Yarra Valley, Victoria
Grape Varieties	100% Pinot Noir
Winemaker	Steve Flamsteed
Features	Vegan, Vegetarian
Closure	Stelvin
ABV	13.5%
Wine pH	3.57
Bottle Sizes	75cl