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HELEN'S HILL

SINGLE VINEYARD YARRA VALLEY

For Export Use Only



The
Real
Review **2021**

**TOP WINERIES
AUSTRALIA**

Halliday
WINE COMPANION



PROUD TO BE A
5 RED STAR WINERY
IN THE 2021 HALLIDAY
WINE COMPANION





OUR STORY

The story of Helen's Hill began long before a vine was ever planted in Coldstream. It's a story of two families with a love of farming and wine running deep in their veins. Having been dragged away from the land, they had always yearned to return to the life that created the fond memories of their youthful years.

So, when the opportunity arose in 1997 to combine a passion for farming and love of great wine, the Nalder and McIntosh families decided it was too good of an opportunity to pass up. What you see when you enter the gates today is the product of that passion. A truly family run and owned vineyard with a passion for great viticulture and producing wines of quality and distinction.



HELEN'S HILL

A man with long hair tied back, wearing a black shirt, tan cargo pants, and black boots, is standing in a winery cellar. He is holding a glass of red wine and using a long-handled tool to sample wine from a wooden barrel. The cellar is filled with rows of wooden barrels on metal racks. The lighting is warm and focused on the man and the barrels.

OUR WINEMAKING ETHOS

Our philosophy on making wine is simple. We take what Mother Nature gives us. We let the sun, the rain and the soil work its magic. Our small parcel of land in this part of the Yarra Valley is unique, this site cannot be replicated elsewhere and that is what we want you to experience, in both our wine and when you visit us. We take a sustainable and minimalist approach once the fruit hits the winery and we let viticulture guide us to create our two very distinct wine labels.

Our Helen's Hill label is created using special fruit from areas of our vineyard, and is designed to age for a few years before drinking, and our Ingram Road range features riper fruit and is designed to drink now, and this is all thanks to our special microclimates located on the Hill.



OF HILLS AND MICROCLIMATES

It's no coincidence we are where we are. We scoured Coldstream in the Yarra Valley to find the perfect site. We were looking for three things - hills, microclimates and the iconic Yarra Valley soil.

The combination of these three factors is why we chose Helen's Hill to put down our roots, as we knew this climate would make our wines truly interesting and unique to others in the region. To this day, these factors define us and the wines we produce.

The French call it 'terroir'. We call it Helen's Hill. Come and visit our vineyard and you'll experience the magic yourself.



The Collections

HELEN'S HILL

SINGLE CLONE

WINEMAKERS RESERVE

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Take a little bit of Helen's Hill home with you. We don't believe in a whole heap of fluff or a lot of wine jargon, so we'll cut to the chase. We make great wine. It's what we do. Our award-winning, small batch, single vineyard wines are some of the best in the business.

2019 Long Walk Pinot Noir

ABOUT

The Helen's Hill 'Long Walk' Pinot Noir is made primarily from the largest block of Pinot Noir we have on the property. Each of the 120 rows are 520 metres long. So, when it comes times to pull on the boots and venture out into the Pinot block you know you are in for a seriously long walk. We love to spend our days out there in the 'long walk' block, getting our hands dirty and wearing out the soles of our blundstones. Speaking of getting down and dirty, that's what you can expect when you taste the Long Walk Pinot Noir. Distinctly Yarra Valley, it's earthy, it's gamey, it's certainly not a pretty Pinot Noir. One of our finest achievements is that we take the unique characteristics of the 'terroir' that the Yarra provides, and we bottle it. It's all here waiting for you to discover and enjoy.

WINEMAKERS NOTES

Comprising four clones, all from old vines, the fruit is destemmed but not crushed for whole berry fermentation in open top fermenters with 8-10 days on skins. Pressed, settled and racked to French barriques (30% new) for 11 months, held on fine lees without racking until they are racked for bottling.

VINTAGE REPORT

Moderate rainfall in winter led into above average temperatures and a very successful flowering period of October and November. Generous rainfall throughout spring, along with warm spring temperatures, led to good yields. Flowering conditions were nigh on perfect and these conditions followed through into fruit set (early January). Warm but not extreme temperatures continued into summer and meant an early start to harvest. A dry March, with cool overnight temperatures, kept disease pressure low and allowed grapes to retain excellent natural acidity.

TASTING NOTES

This Pinot Noir has highly aromatic bouquet with spicy plum aromas leading into a medium-bodied palate with savoury nuances providing a counterpoint to the plummy fruit. The balance and the length cannot be faulted in a wine that does full justice to a great vintage for Pinot Noir in the Yarra Valley.

Colour	Ruby Red
Aroma	Plums and Spices
Palate tannins	Dark cherry, earthy tones, subtle



DRY RED

12 bottles per pack



2019 Hill Top Syrah

ABOUT

At Helen's Hill, we like to think of ourselves as all-rounders. It's an ethos that serves you well in a family business. That being as it is, our Hilltop Syrah has a real soft spot in our hearts. It's the all-rounder's style of Shiraz that's begun to pick up somewhat of a cult following in big red drinking circles. The Yarra Valley provides our Shiraz vines with the ability to produce a style of wine that has an elegance to it that is simply unattainable for classical Australian Shiraz. It broadens our Syrah's potential for food pairings and drinking occasions immeasurably, and we love it!

Grown on the 'Hill Top', the highest point of Helen's Hill, the vines are exposed to the hottest temperatures on our property, allowing them to thrive. The result, as owner Allan describes it, is an iron fist in a velvet glove. A cool climate Syrah with all the elegance and power required to make a lasting impression.



DRY RED

12 bottles per pack



HELEN'S HILL

2019 Breachley Block Chardonnay

ABOUT

Our Breachley Block Chardonnay is sourced from vines from our Breachley block, a patch of Chardonnay vines planted in 1984, 13 years prior to the rest of our vineyard. These vines produce exceptional fruit at low yields each and every year. The reason for this is a combination of the site itself and the viticultural standards we adhere to. No expense is spared in our quest for producing fruit capable of creating cool climate chardonnay of incredible quality.



WINEMAKERS NOTES

Hand picked at harvest the fruit is then gently pressed into tank where it settles before being transferred into our finest French oak puncheons for primary fermentation in barrel. No inoculation is required as our wild vineyard yeasts are all that is necessary to complete the ferment. We use a mixture of new and old oak (40% new). The wine is allowed to complete 25% malolactic ferment to add complexity and mouthfeel. After nine months in barrel the wine is lightly filtered and bottled.



Vintage report

The vintage kicked off with warmer than average temperatures throughout Winter and above-average rainfall, setting the vines with everything they needed for the growing season. Flowering was successful in November and crop loads were consistent and generous. The 2019 vintage will be remembered most for its sustained heat throughout the entire ripening season. This allowed our chardonnay vines to ripen evenly without any threat of disease. The result was intense fruit character and sugar development leading to wine of incredibly flavour and intensity.

TASTING NOTES

Bright pale straw colour with an intense bouquet of stone fruit and stuck match. The palate follows the nose, leading with citrus and lemon, followed by a mixture of stone fruits and smokey oak notes around the edges. This is a fruit forward chardonnay with the hallmarks of the Yarra Valley style singing along in the background in the form of fresh acidity and flint characters. Oak comes along for the ride but by no means is it steering the ship.

Colour	Bright pale straw
Aroma	Citrus and lemon
Palate	Stone fruits and smokey oak

DRY WHITE

12 bottles per pack



HELEN'S HILL BREACHLEY BLOCK CHARDONNAY

Industry Reviews

Bright, pale straw-green; has flourished over the past 12 months, although there's no hurry. Grapefruit takes white peach and apple by their hands and glides along the palate to the lingering finish.
James Halliday (2017 Vintage)

Lift of lemon curd and grapefruit aromatics. The palate carries good weight and drives long into the finish with contrasting layers of orchard fruits and crushed stone and oak smoked savouries. Lot to enjoy here as it opens in the glass.
Stuart Knox TRR - (2018) Vintage

Bright, light yellow colour, with a big smoky-oak bouquet. The palate is dry and also smoky, firm and oak-tightened, with some intensity and persistence, the finish and aftertaste dry, savoury and cleansing. Lots of flavour and fine structure.
Huone Hook - 2017 (2017 Vintage)



Awards and Accolades

- 2017 Silver Medal - 2019 Decanter Asia Wine Awards
- 2018 95 Points - James Halliday
- 2017 96 Points - James Halliday
- 2016 95 Points - Huone Hook
- 2008 Gold Medal - Sydney International Wine Comp
- 2006 Gold Medal - ICCWS 2008
- 2006 Gold Medal - 2008 Royal Melbourne Show



HELEN'S HILL

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2018 The Empress Single Clone Reserve Chardonnay

ABOUT

As Yarra Valley vignerons and lovers of the modern, clean crisp style that our region allows Helen's Hill to produce the Empress comes as a change of tune back to an older style. Sourced from a small selection of rows within a larger block of P58 clone Chardonnay, this wine is a throwback to the days of opulent, rich Chardonnay's. The fruit produced from this patch year on year was throwing out the balance of their other Chardonnays with its power and fruit intensity. So much so, Helen's Hill decided to separate the parcel and give it the 'Royal Treatment'. The result is a Chardonnay of pure opulence. A wine for lovers of the classical style Chardonnay made properly.

WINEMAKERS NOTES

The Chardonnay fruit for the Empress is always hand harvested and whole bunch pressed. The wine is settled overnight before being transferred to a mixture of new (30%) and seasoned (1 year old) French oak barrels for primary ferment using only wild yeasts. Helen's Hill then allow for natural malolactic fermentation to occur in 30% percent of barrels to add textured creaminess and mouthfeel to the wine. Helen's Hill Empress Chardonnay spent a total of 8 month ageing in barrel before bottling.



DRY WHITE

6 bottles per pack

VINTAGE REPORT

Moderate rainfall in winter led into above average temperatures and a very successful flowering period of October and November. Generous rainfall throughout spring, along with warm spring temperatures, led to good yields.

Flowering conditions were near perfect and these conditions followed through into fruit set (early January). Warm but not extreme temperatures continued into Summer and this meant an early start to harvest. A dry March, with cool overnight temperatures, kept disease pressure low and allowed grapes to retain excellent natural acidity.

TASTING NOTES

Indicative of the warmer 18 vintage the Empress is truly a richer style Chardonnay. Pillowy, rich fruits of yellow peach and nectarine coat the palate, complemented and enhanced by fine oak structure adding a framework of vanilla essence and fine tannin to the outer edges. This wine displays incredible length and layers upon layer of complex fruit flavour.



2017 First Light Single Clone Reserve Pinot Noir

ABOUT

Singe Vineyard, single clone, single focus.

Our Single Clone Reserve Pinot Noirs speak to everything we are as vignerons and winemakers. We are cool climate producers, and this is the pinnacle of our craft. Sourced from 'old vines' planted in 1983 and our most easterly block of vines. As such the first block to be touched by the 'first light' of dawn each morning. Made entirely from the MV6 pinot clone, our First light pinot noir truly reflects the unique characteristics of Australia's very own pinot noir clone.

WINEMAKERS NOTES

Once the fruit has reached the perfect balance of acidity, sugar levels and flavour, it is immediately hand picked. From there, we de-stem and lightly crush the fruit to maintain a percentage of whole berries for open top fermentation. This Pinot spends between 10 on skins, with daily gentle pump overs to increase structure and aromatics. It is then pressed off and racked into French oak barrels (40% new oak) for 11 months to mature.

VINTAGE REPORT

Moderate rainfall throughout spring, along with warm spring temperatures, led to good yields. Flowering conditions were nigh on perfect and these conditions followed through into fruit set in early January. Warm but not extreme temperatures continued into summer and meant a very early start to harvest. A dry March, with cool overnight temperatures, kept disease pressure low.



TASTING NOTES

A deep burnished red in colour, typical of the MV6 clone, this wine is subtle at first, as dark bramble fruits and strawberries and a hint of spice draw you in. Savoury and complex, its length is a standout as dried fruits, Yarra earthy tones and spices linger on the palate for what seems like forever.

Colour	Deep ruby red
Aroma	Red fruits, earthiness and spices
Palate	Intense dark fruits, powerful tannins

DRY RED

6 bottles per pack

SINGLE CLONE



2017 Rangeview Singe Clone Reserve Pinot Noir

ABOUT

Singe Vineyard, single clone, single focus.

Our Single Clone Reserve Pinot Noirs speak to everything we are as vignerons and winemakers. We are cool climate producers, and this is the pinnacle of our craft. Sourced from a single block of west facing, high planted vines at our Yarra Valley site, this 100% Pommard (D4V5) clone Pinot Noir is the boldest in our range. These vines were selected for their ability to create Pinot with a power and intensity that we believe to be unmatched in other clones of the variety. To accentuate this the vines are cropped low and no expense is spared each year. The results speak for themselves.

WINEMAKERS NOTES

Once the fruit has reached the perfect balance of acidity, sugar levels and flavour, it is immediately hand picked. From there, we de-stem and lightly crush the fruit to maintain a percentage of whole berries for open top fermentation. This Pinot spends between 10 on skins, with daily gentle pump overs to increase structure and aromatics. It is then pressed off and racked into French oak barrels (40% new oak) for 11 months to mature.

VINTAGE REPORT

Flowering conditions in November were similar to 2015; close to perfect. Mild weather through the Spring period led to consistent fruit set and good yields throughout the vineyard. The favourable weather continued on into the ripening season. Consistent heat and moderate rainfall allowed for a controlled ripening season. The result was well balanced fruit, with lovely acidity matching the sugar level, allowing us to build our 2016 wines they way we like to.



TASTING NOTES

Pinot Noir with intensity and structure that is rarely matched. The bouquet is sour cherry and spice, the pallet follows through on what the bouquet promised. Dark cherry and bramble fruits are complimented with spice and ample structure to keep the wine alive on the tongue for an age after it is first tasted. A Pinot Noir built to stand the test of time.

Colour	Dark Crimson.
Aroma	Black Cherry and Spices.
Palate	Intense dark fruits, powerful tannins.

DRY RED

6 bottles per pack

SINGLE CLONE



2017 Winemakers Reserve Pinot Noir

ABOUT

In years when Mother Nature smiles upon the Yarra Valley, we are gifted with the perfect canvas for the artistry of winemaking. From these great years our winemakers select the best of the best; the finest fruit of these outstanding vintages, matured in the most hedonistic of French oak barrels. These are the criteria that each individual bottle must meet to be chosen for our prestigious 'Winemaker's Reserve' label.



WINEMAKERS NOTES

The Helen's Hill 2017 'Winemakers Reserve' Pinot Noir is truly the best of the best. Batches of our super low cropped reserve Pinot clones are handpicked, destemmed and lightly crushed. From there they spend between 10-14 days in open top fermenters with gentle pump overs. Once pressed off to barrel the artistry begins. We select the only best performing barrels of each clone, blending them together to form a wine of outstanding balance, structure and intensity.



VINTAGE REPORT

After a cold, uncharacteristically dry winter, Spring started in the same fashion. Consistent rainfall and mild temperatures prevailed through flowering and into November which led to lower than average crop levels in many varieties, Pinot Noir especially. After Christmas the script was flipped as we saw consistent mild to warm temperatures and moderate rainfall. This was an ideal ripening period for all varieties, most prominent of these being Pinot Noir.

TASTING NOTES

Our winemaker's selection of the best performing Pinot clones from this outstanding Yarra Valley vintage. Clear expression of dark cherries and spice announce themselves immediately. What's to come is more exciting, as the initial intensity gives way to complex, silky tannins and a distinctly recognisable French oak finish. A wine to be savoured.

Colour	Deep Crimson
Aroma	Sour cherry, spice, French oak
Palate	Intense red and dark fruits, spice, silky tannin

DRY RED

6 bottles per pack



2017 Winemakers Reserve Chardonnay

ABOUT

In years when Mother Nature smiles upon the Yarra Valley, we are gifted with the perfect canvas for the artistry of winemaking. From these great years our winemakers select the best of the best; the finest fruit of these outstanding vintages, matured in the most hedonistic of French oak barrels. These are the criteria that each individual bottle must meet to be chosen for our prestigious 'Winemaker's Reserve' label.



WINEMAKERS NOTES

The Helen's Hill 2017 'Winemakers Reserve' Chardonnay is a true expression of our passion for making outstanding cool climate wine. This wine is made in traditional ways. Handpicked and whole bunch pressed, the wine is barrel fermented and left on lees and solids for 11 months to mature in French oak. After 11 months is complete, only the best few barrels are selected and left to mature for a further 3 months. This wine strikes a perfect balance of fruit intensity, acidity and structure.



VINTAGE REPORT

After a cold, uncharacteristically dry winter, Spring started in the same fashion. Consistent rainfall and mild temperatures prevailed through flowering and into November which led to lower than average crop levels in many varieties, Pinot Noir especially. After Christmas the script was flipped as we saw consistent mild to warm temperatures and moderate rainfall. This was an ideal ripening period for all varieties, most prominent of these being Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

TASTING NOTES

The culmination of a strict selection process, where wine quality is paramount. Intense, cool climate fruit characters of stone fruit and citrus come to the fore. French Oak plays a pivotal role but does not dominate. The finish is long and rich. The complexity, length and outstanding structure of this wine will allow for cellaring for years to come.

Colour	Burnished Gold
Aroma	Lemon peel, butterscotch, French oak
Palate	Stone fruits, oak, buttery rich finish

DRY WHITE

6 bottles per pack





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