

**Firebird****Pinot Noir — 2019**Estate Grown *in the*  
Adelaide Hills

## VITICULTURE

After a simple and easy 2018 growing season, mother nature threw us a curve ball with historically low yields driven by wet and windy conditions during fruit set and closely followed by 3 hailstone events mid November 2018 removing most of what little fruit that had set. Summer was then very dry and warm but good canopies coupled with light yields produced excellent fruit quality. What was a viticulturalists nightmare did lead to grapes with wonderful flavours and intensity with some of the best natural acidity seen for years. Our Tunnel Hill vineyard has 3 blocks of Pinot Noir, Block 7 planted with the MV6 clone, Block 8 the 114 clone and Block 9 the 115 clone. The Tunnel Hill vineyard has an elevation of +450 metres and is characterized by very steep slopes facing East and West with soils that are brown loam over clay intermixed with ironstone.

## WINEMAKING

The 2019 Pinot was handpicked from our Tunnel Hill vineyard. Because of the exceptionally low yields a small batch of Pinot Noir was borrowed from the wonderful Geoff Weaver who came to our rescue in our time of need. After seeing the quality of the fruit from Geoff's block we have convinced him to give us a small parcel each year going forward.

Each block was treated differently with our 3 Pinot blocks at Tunnel Hill each vinified using a variety of whole berry and whole bunch fermentation depending on each block's ripeness. The Weaver Pinot Noir was fermented 50% whole bunch

Time on skins prior to pressing ranged from 12 to 18 days with the pressing timing dependent on flavour and colour extraction. Each wine was matured in a balanced mix of new and seasoned French oak barrels. Around 20% of the wine was matured in a mix of new and seasoned 500L puncheon French oak barrels as we experimented with the large format barrels.

TECHNICAL  
DETAILS

**Region** — Adelaide Hills  
**Variety** — Pinot Noir  
**Winemakers** — Mark Kozned and Chris Parsons  
**Alcohol** — 13.5%  
**pH** — 3.45  
**TA** — 6.4 g/L  
**Bouquet** — Delicate lifted fresh red berries, a hint of dill, cherries, and spice.

**Palate** — The palate waxes and wanes between elegance and power reflecting the low yielding year exhibiting mushroom, soy, dark red fruits, with a spice and savoury twist supported by wonderful silky tannins.

**Cellaring** — Ready to drink now or cellar until the late 2020's

## ACCOLADES

Bronze Medal - Royal Adelaide Wine Show 2020

3.5 stars - Winestate magazine

