

rada

2024 TASMANIA



Vineyard

The Pinot Meunier for the eighth release of the Rada blend is sourced from the East Coast of the island, while the Pinot Noir comes from two Coal River Valley vineyards, one just outside of Richmond and the other a vineyard located at Tea Tree. For the first time, the blend also includes a small portion of Gamay; the first crop from the vines planted at my Palisander vineyard in 2021.

Meunier is a clonal mutation of Pinot Noir and is recognised viticulturally for its delicate web of white hairs on the underside of its leaves – resembling a fine dusting of flour (Meunier is French for miller).

Vintage

In contrast to the previous three cooler and wetter La Nina seasons, the winter and spring of 2023 offered relatively composed conditions with little wind or rain to interrupt the start of the growing season. The moderate weather contributed to an early and even flowering across southern Tasmania, which nonetheless remained much drier than normal in the Coal River Valley. Some good rainfall in early January encouraged a late growth spurt and saw us start veraison at the end of that month. The dry conditions continued through to harvest which despite the warm summer and autumn started only a little bit earlier than 'normal'.

Tasting Notes

A balance of spiced red fruit and earthy elements lift from the glass - saline cherry and liquorice play off sage flower and chamomile notes. The svelte yet crunchy palate gives way to waxy fruit on the palate driven by a line of natural acidity framed by rounded tannins.

Rada Penfold

Rada Penfold, of the eponymous Penfold family, in the 1970s 'was involved in public relations for the company and wrote a wine column (a relatively new phenomenon) for the Sydney Morning Herald, ostensibly aimed at encouraging consumers to drink more table wine...Ever the party throwing socialite Rada Penfold-Collins (as she became known after her marriage) approached Penfolds winemaker Max Schubert and asked him to create a new wine for an important party. He and his team came up with a sparkling blue wine and it was such a hit at the party that Rada (who had a seat on the board) suggested it be made commercially.' *Jeni Port - Crushed by Women*

Artwork

The artwork for the Rada label was commissioned from talented Hobart artist Kate Piekutowski: www.katepiekutowskiartwork.com

Technical Information

- The Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir parcels for this wine were picked in the first two weeks of March, with the Gamay harvested on 15 April.
- The majority (84%) of the batches were destemmed with 16% left as whole bunches. All of the Gamay underwent carbonic maceration for 10 days prior to being destemmed and fermented out.
- The Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir parcels were cold soaked for three days prior to being warmed up for wild ferment (by indigenous yeasts) which lasted for about seven days prior to being pressed to tank.
- Racked off gross lees to older Francois Freres and Ermitage French oak puncheons the next day with six months in oak on fine lees prior to preparing for bottling.
- Final blend: 50% Pinot Meunier, 44% Pinot Noir, 6% Gamay
- Bottled 8 October 2024: 13% alc., 3.48pH, 5.9g/L TA

PRODUCED BY STARGAZER
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