



WINEMAKING IS AN ART. BUT THERE IS MORE TO IT THAN THAT. BEHIND EVERY BOTTLE OF STEFANO LUBIANA WINE LIES A LEGACY OF 5 GENERATIONS OF LUBIANA FAMILY WINEMAKING. A LEGACY OF LABOUR AND LOVE – FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

2009 STEFANO LUBIANA ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Bumper harvests might put a smile on the dial of your average potato farmer but when it comes to producing top notch, cool climate table wines they're really a no-no for vineyard owners.

Pinot Noir in particular performs poorly whenever it's over-cropped. Growers that play fast and loose in the vineyard often end up with thin and uninteresting wines – Pinots that are long on promise but short on colour, aroma and flavour.

That 'less is more' rule certainly applied at Granton during our 2009 harvest.

Unpredictably cool and windy weather during December 2008 might have conspired to reduce the total crop production on our site by around 20-30 percent (depending on variety) but it resulted in the creation of one of the best Estate Pinots we have made in recent years from our hand-tended, biodynamic vineyard.

The season's low soil moisture, smaller than average leaf canopies, and significantly increased fruit exposure all played major roles in shaping the wine's ripe yet wonderfully elegant palate. Where our highly acclaimed 2008 Estate Pinot Noir earned plenty of praise for its powerful 'masculine' fruit and firm, tannic, 'New World' structure, the 2009 can be more clearly aligned with the 'Old World' – fine, fragrant, and feminine, with some soft, supple, velvety notes that underscore the variety's true nobility.

In the glass, the warmth of the ripening season shows up clearly in the richness of the colour of this latest Estate wine. Its red fruit aromas readily identify it as cool climate Pinot Noir – a wine with latitude, reflecting all of the benefits that naturally accrue from our vineyard's long summer sunlight hours and its sustainable production levels in Tasmania's pristine Derwent Valley.

Year-long maturation in a mix of new and used French oak barriques has not only provided the wine with a fine, silky tannin structure, it has also enhanced its floral aromas with an overlay of subtle sweet spice.

Once bottled, our Estate Pinot Noir is deliberately held back from release until it has begun to develop some really attractive drinking qualities. Sure, it looks good now, but there are better days ahead for this stylish wine from the low-yielding 2009 vintage. Give it another 5-7 years in a cool dark place and you should be handsomely rewarded by its added complexity and optimum drinking pleasure. Enjoy!

 March 2011.

