



Media release

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Handpicked Wines wins trophy for first single vineyard release



Handpicked Wines has won the trophy and a trifecta of medals for each of the wines made from the first vintage at its Capella Vineyard on the Mornington Peninsula.

The Handpicked Capella Vineyard 2013 Pinot Noir was awarded a gold medal and judged ‘Best Mornington Peninsula Red Wine’ in the International Cool Climate Wine Show, held at Mornington Racing Club last month. The other two Handpicked wines entered also received medals – the Handpicked Collection 2013 Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir won silver and the Handpicked Collection 2013 Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay won bronze.

Chief winemaker Gary Baldwin said the result was especially satisfying because it was the company’s first vintage at this vineyard. Handpicked didn’t get the keys to the property until January 2013.

“We spent a lot of time looking at vineyards and we chose Capella Vineyard because of its potential to make outstanding Pinot noir and Chardonnay wines. This trophy vindicates our faith in the site and the Mornington Peninsula wine region,” Mr Baldwin said.

“We took over the vineyard only a few months before harvest and worked very hard and very quickly to maximise fruit quality.” Working with the existing vineyard team, Mr Baldwin immediately set about shoot thinning and crop thinning to promote optimal ripeness and minimise the disease risk. The fruit was picked – by hand, of course – in warm conditions in early March.





“They did a great job in such a short period,” Mr Baldwin said of his small team.

“The crop levels were low but we were very happy with the fruit flavours, particularly given the vines are still young.”

Having decided a single vineyard wine would be made only in exceptional vintages and with no knowledge of how the vineyard would perform, all blocks were fermented separately so each could be evaluate before determining final blends. From the beginning, two blocks of Pinot Noir stood out for their intensity of colour and flavour and Mr Baldwin decided they were good enough for a single vineyard release.

Handpicked Wines is a company with a portfolio of wines from established wine regions brought together with the message, “Travel the world, one wine at a time”. With the appointment of Gary Baldwin as chief winemaker in 2013 the company signalled a serious intent to continue to pursue quality and carve a place in the affordable fine wine market.

Baldwin oversees quality of the range and after decades working as a consultant, helping other outfits grow and improve, is enjoying a hands-on role with ultimate responsibility for the wines in his care.

The acquisition of vineyards and a new state-of-the art winery at Capella Vineyard gives Baldwin and his team ultimate control over some of the label’s flagship wines, many of which will be launched at industry events in Sydney in September and October.

In addition to the Capella Vineyard on the Mornington Peninsula, Handpicked Wines has Highbow Hill Vineyard in the Yarra Valley and Watunga Road Vineyard in the Barossa Valley. It also has long-standing relationships with first-rate growers and winemakers in premium regions around the world, including Champagne, Italy, Spain, Marlborough, Central Otago, Margaret River, Clare Valley, Eden Valley, Coonawarra, Tasmania and Heathcote.

The Handpicked Capella Vineyard 2013 Pinot Noir (\$80RRP), Handpicked Collection 2013 Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir (\$50RRP) and Handpicked Collection 2013 Mornington Peninsula Chardonnay (\$40RRP) will be officially released in September 2014.

For more information, or to arrange an interview or photo with Gary Baldwin, contact Handpicked Wines marketing manager Imogen Hayes on 0431 056 936 or 02 9475 7888.