

BY FARR RP Pinot Noir

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The RP Pinot Noir (RP – Robyn Pamela) is in recognition of the matriarch. It is not only the support and goffering that Robyn has endured for Gary's 40 year career. She has been in the vineyard and planted the first vines, driven the tractors, filled barrels and pigeaged at midnight. If we are ever a man down Robyn has always been the first one we have called to fill the void no matter the job, no matter the time of day. You can always count on mum.

Vinification

The fruit is hand-picked and sorted in the vineyard, then fermented in an open-top fermenter. Between 40 to 50 per cent of the fruit will be stemmed and then cold soaked for four days. We use only the natural yeast for the fermentation process, which takes roughly 19 days. Grape-stomping (known as pigeage) will occur two to three times a day depending on the amount of extraction required, and the wine is then placed in 50 to 60 per cent new Allier barrels by gravity. It is racked by gas after secondary fermentation, then again at 18 months to be bottled.

Tasting Note

"It is easy to forget this is made from grape juice. I can't imagine a more remote starting point to something that gives so much pleasure. The transformation from sweet one-dimensional juice to multi-faceted wine is nothing short of alchemy, or so it seems. I know it sounds creepy, but I just rolled this wine around in my mouth. Drinking it, almost unnecessary, but ultimately, too hard to deny.

The nose of this wine is endlessly complex, as the previous wines were, but it is more fully resolved. In that I mean it is riper, less herbal, softer and more fully formed. The wine makes you salivate and is the very type of wine that helps define vinous descriptors like "peacocks' tail". In the abstract sense, these words, like so many others, seem like flummery, but the description comes from the sense of a broadening and greater intricacy, and indeed volume, that the wine exhibits. It is how the wine delivers more beauty towards the "end" of the palate, as it is swallowed. The RP is seamless. I can't find anything to fault in the RP; it is luxurious and the zenith of Pinot Noir expression in my opinion." — Ben Knight