



2018 Valli Gibbston Vineyard Pinot Noir

When the weather is just right—typically warm years—Gibbston can excel. Valli's 2018 Gibbston Vineyard Pinot Noir offers up a stunning array of herbal-floral aromas, hinting at roses, tea and mint, all backed by a core of red cherries. It's medium-bodied, silky and fine, with plentiful (but ripe) tannins. The 31% new French oak is scarcely noticeable, submerged under the waves of fruit-driven complexity, and the 30% whole-bunch component is similarly well integrated. What a beauty!

- Joe Czerwinski (February, 2020)

2018 Valli Waitaki Vineyard Pinot Noir

Smoky, meaty notes from the 30% new Mercurey barrels accent the nose of the 2018 Waitaki Vineyard Pinot Noir, but it's by no means one-dimensional. It also offers up hints of roses, cherries and clove. Medium-bodied, silky and elegant on the palate, it lingers teasingly on the finish, alternating between fruity and savory characters, both wrapped around a graphite-laced backbone.

- Joe Czerwinski (February, 2020)

2018 Valli Bendigo Vineyard Pinot Noir

2018 Valli Bannockburn Vineyard Pinot Noir

The 2018 Bannockburn Vineyard Pinot Noir features slightly chunkier fruit than found in Valli's bottlings from cooler regions (Waitaki, Gibbston). That may actually appeal more to consumers looking for a slightly bigger, richer style of Pinot Noir. Black cherries and notes of baking spices are framed by ripe tannins and crisp acids, and there's just a suggestion of cedary oak (it was aged in 30% new French pièces). It's smooth and supple on the finish, making it approachable now, yet it should age well for a decade or so.

- Joe Czerwinski (February, 2020)

The fullest-bodied Valli Pinot (from the warmest subregion), the 2018 Bendigo Vineyard Pinot Noir boasts ebullient black cherry and blackberry fruit. Medium to full-bodied, with hints of cocoa, clove and a bit of dusty-rose character, it's big but not lacking elegance or complexity, finishing with silky tannins and admirable length.

- Joe Czerwinski (February, 2020)