



## MEDIA RELEASE      23 August 2013

### Decanter (UK) Magazine rates Freycinet Pinot Noir favourably against 79 Victorian and Tasmanian Pinot Noirs

The August 2013 issue of the prestigious Decanter (UK) Magazine recently conducted a tasting of 81 Victorian and Tasmanian Pinot Noirs from Geelong, Gippsland, Macedon, Mornington Peninsula, Yarra Valley and various regions in Tasmania. The assessment Panel comprised:

- **Andrew Jefford** a columnist for Decanter who has been writing and broadcasting about wine since the 1980s, winning many awards. Andrew spent 15 months as a senior research fellow at Adelaide University between 2009 and 2010.
- **Roger Jones** chef/patron of the Michelin-starred restaurant The Harrow at Little Bedwyn. Roger works with Westminster and Swindon Catering Colleges and is a fellow of the Master Chefs of Great Britain.
- **Alessandro Marchesan** sommelier and wine buyer for Zuma and Roka International since 2003, since returning from a six-week scholarship to Australia from the Dan Pontifex Memorial Fund.

Producers were invited to submit a maximum of two wines from each of their latest-release Pinot Noirs from any region in Victoria or Tasmania. Wines were assessed in three categories:

- **Outstanding** (18.75 – 20 points or 95+ points/100)
- **Highly recommended** (17 – 18.25 points or 90-94 points/100)
- **Recommended** (15 – 16.75 points or 85-89 points/100)

Of the **81** wines assessed:

- **7** were judged as **Outstanding** (1 Tasmanian – the 2010 Freycinet Pinot Noir)
- **12** were judged as **Highly Recommended** (3 Tasmanian – including the 2011 Freycinet Pinot Noir)
- **62** were judged as **Recommended** (14 Tasmanian)

The overall assessment of the Panel included the comments:

**Andrew Jefford:** *" This was a great tasting. What I particularly enjoyed was the grain and finesse of many of the wines...It can't be long before the world wakes up to the great value offered by Victorian and Tasmanian Pinot Noir...I think it is unfair that Australia hasn't got more credit for its achievements with Pinot Noir – there are some of the most profound Pinot Noir-thinkers on the planet living there, and it's something that Australians take extremely seriously...The happy thing is that when you work at it, you can create something absolutely sublime, nuanced and fantastic. We saw that in this tasting."*

**Roger Jones:** *"Tasmania has certainly come of age. A decade ago they were making wines that were fresh, fruity and for easy drinking, but are now producing serious wines of texture and depth, as well as a vibrant, fruity character."*

**Alessandro Marchesan:** *"I feel as though something went wrong on the marketing front with Australian Pinot Noir ...Tasmania's Pinots should be better recognised than those of Central Otago and Mornington Peninsula than those from Marlborough...the wines from Tasmania being the more concentrated with intense tannin structure and most of them displaying a note of rhubarb...I don't need to be convinced that Australian Pinot is the best in the New World...The Pinots are more complex than those from New Zealand; they come from older vines..(Tasmania) was a big discovery for me – the wines had incredible freshness, depth of flavour and real originality."*

---

We were thrilled that our 2010 Freycinet Pinot Noir was ranked in the **Outstanding** category scoring an average of 18.75 (95+) points from the Panel and being included in the top 3 pinots of both Andrew Jefford and Alessandro Marchesan:

**Andrew Jefford:**

*"Claudio Radenti is one of Tasmania's forefathers of Pinot Noir excellence, working at the family's vineyard for more than 20 years. In typically modest style he said: 'In 1988 we started to raise a few eyebrows with our Pinot Noir' - that was just eight years after the vines were planted. They've been raising them ever since. The east coast of Tassie is a bit warmer than the rest of the island state and this comes through in the structured, plush and chocolate-voiced velvety chords that Radenti plucks from his fruit... Long term Tasmania watchers have always known that Claudio Radenti, with his almost Burgundian humility and devotion to his site, was limbering up to produce some of Australia's great Pinot Noir. I can't see what more he could have done to improve his 2010: a disarmingly lovely wine...Red fruits of real complexity. It's rich, mouth-coating and vivacious with lots of grip. It's structured, yet poised and engaging, too. There's a splendid resonance to this wine. A wonderfully complete, unapologetic Pinot of its place. Evidently the work of a true Pinotophile and a great drink."* **19/20 (96/100)**

**Roger Jones:**

*"Sweet rose-petal aromas and a palate of very savoury undertones such as dried mushrooms and hints of violets, olives, a touch of cedar wood and toasty brioche. This wine is still evolving."* **18.5 points**

**Alessandro Marchesan:**

*"Complex, elegant and rich nose of black cherries and liquorice. A structured, full-bodied, juicy wine with firm acidity, elegant texture and a long, dark berry fruit aftertaste."* **19 points**

We were equally delighted that our 2011 Freycinet Pinot Noir was ranked in the **Highly Recommended** category with **17.25 points (90+)** with the Panel's comment:

*"You could mistake this for Burgundy: real development and authority to the red fruits. Gentle perfume with great resonance and depth of fruit. Structured and full, backed by a superb tannic presence."*

---

Commenting on the results, Freycinet Vineyard winemaker Claudio Radenti said:

*"Many of the prestigious Pinot noir wines from both Victoria and Tasmania were assessed by the reputed panel at Decanter Magazine. It was a great thrill and honour to be included in the shortlist of better producers. Growing rich Pinot Noir has a great deal to do with site selection rather than winery techniques. We are fortunate that we have a very good site. Fortunate, too, that we have a long serving, loyal and dedicated team!"*

Sadly both 2010 and 2011 Freycinet Pinot Noirs have now sold out, but we are excited to announce that the new 2012 Freycinet Pinot Noir has just been released. Respected wine writer/judge Nick Stock has already discovered it, with the following fantastic review in the August/September 2013 issue of **Gourmet Traveller WINE**:

*"Freycinet Vineyard does not disappoint with the 2012 Freycinet Pinot Noir. It shows immense depth and complexity with grand-cru like poise. Trademark deep, vivid east coast Tasmania colour in the red-purple spectrum, aromas of bright ripe cherry and plum sit amid gently glossy oak toast, spice and rose petals. The palate has abundant flesh and depth with deep set tannins secured below bright yet weighty, dark cherry fruit. Terrific volume all wrapped neatly together into an exhilarating finish. It is deceptively elegant, such is the balance. This is shaping up to be the best Freycinet Pinot Noir ever."*

---

Freycinet Vineyards Pty Ltd  
15919 Tasman Highway Bicheno 7215