



2021

# PICCADILLY VALLEY PINOT NOIR

2021

The 2021 vintage was widely considered to be excellent across South Australia and the Piccadilly Valley was no exception with ideal conditions at flowering allowing good fruit set. Several rain periods in late January and early February ensured adequate soil moisture levels providing optimum conditions for berry development. Sugar ripening was slowed by cooler temperatures late in harvest, allowing steady flavour development and concentration in the fruit.

## WINEMAKING

Fruit for the 2021 Piccadilly Valley Pinot Noir was taken from six blocks and split into 45 separate ferments. Picking decisions were based on flavour and acidity to achieve a wine with a plush palate, taught natural acidity and floral aromatics. The percentage of whole bunch was backed off a little to 30% so as not to overpower the fruit characters, but still play an important role in aromatics and structure.



## WINEMAKER

In 2019 winemaker Liam Van Pelt signed on for vintage at Ashton Hills to assist revered winemaker and Ashton Hills founder Stephen George. Little did he know it was an audition, as Stephen contemplated winding down his daily involvement in winemaking at Ashton Hills, where winemaking remains a

physical undertaking. Liam proved his worth in 2019 and remained on after vintage and by the time the 2020 vintage rolled around, the roles were reversed as Stephen took a back seat. By 2021 Liam had established himself at Ashton Hills with the 2020 wines proving popular with both Ashton Hills faithful and critics alike. Liam has evolved the Ashton Hills style while staying true to the viticulture and winemaking principles that Stephen refined over three decades at Ashton Hills.

## PICCADILLY VALLEY

The Piccadilly Valley is one of two recognised sub-regions of the Adelaide Hills. It's status is based on the cold, wet and humid climate necessary to produce Chardonnay and Pinot Noir of exceptional quality. It's among the most tightly held and highly prized land in South Australia, a beautiful pocket of small hand-tended vineyards producing South Australia's best cool climate wines. Ashton Hills was a pioneer of the region, when Stephen George planted a vineyard there in 1982.