



All Reviews...

2012

A much more favourable season than 2011 though not without several interesting periods. Spring conditions were ideal for budburst and early season growth. With small bunches from the previous season's cool, wet summer and a moderate to cool spell during flowering we saw moderate to low yields with highly concentrated flavours. An average overall hang time but our longest ever veraison-harvest interval (70 days v 57 day average) resulting in intensified flavour and colour development. A record difference between harvest in the lower north and the higher south (31 days v 17 day average).

2012 10X Chardonnay

93 :: Andrew Graham :: ozwinereview.com :: 29/09/2014

A mighty solid wine for the dollars from one of my favourite producers. Nougat and white peach nose, the palate looking full, nutty and yeasty and solidsy, before a full and broad finish, tending towards butterscotch. Generous, mouth filling and complex Chardonnay that I want to drink. Drink 2014-2018.

94 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

It's like a wave crashing on a shore on a sunny day. The flavours - smoky oak, fennel, mineral, ripe nectarine and citrus - build in volume then zero in and finish the job with precision. Sophistication for all comers to appreciate. Drink to 2018.

93 :: Huon Hooke :: huonhooke.com :: 26/01/2014

Medium to full yellow colour. Buttery, toasty and roasted nut aromas, mellow and showing some maturity. Smoky, toasty barrels, complex, and the palate is fine and delicate, subtle and taut. There's some sulfide which may challenge some tasters. A trace of alcohol heat on the end-palate, but an excellent wine. Drink 2014-2019.

93 :: Campbell Mattinson :: winefront.com.au :: 10/11/2013

Another spot-on release from the Ten Minutes by Tractor team. This hits the spot nicely. It's a sophisticated drop but it also boasts a simple, easy-going appeal. Smoky oak, fennel, nectarine and citrus, with a minor note of generic mineral as you swallow. It's well honed; it builds flavour but then arrows through to a lengthy finish. Drink 2014-2018.

90 :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewillbeatitself.com :: 9/11/2013

Ten Minutes by Tractor Chardonnays have never been victims of fashion. Never scared of flavour or overt winemaker input. But they are always balanced within their chosen style. Wild yeast, partial malo, 10 months in barrel (12% new French barriques). Broad shouldered in a way but still toned. Rich with honeycomb, white peach, toasty oak and hazelnuts. Hints of caramel, pineapple and cookie dough. The buttery texture and generosity is offset by mineral and citrus tinged acidity. A good introduction to house-style.

2012 10X Pinot Gris

92 :: Mike Bennie :: winefront.com.au :: 2/10/2013

It's a textural white no doubt, slippery and slightly chalky, just enough detail to keep things interesting. Aromas are baked apple and quince orientated, but fresh and vital. Flavours perky too – it's in the mould of fine pinot gris pushing ripeness and fleshiness, but holds its course very well. A fancy feel here and a touch of minerality appears in crushed slate-like trail through the finish. This is smart. Drink 2013 - 2017.

93 :: Huon Hooke :: huonhooke.com :: 17/12/2013

Full, bright yellow colour. Slightly sulfidic and funky bouquet; hints of toasted almonds (barrel-ferment suspected) and spices. Rich, full palate with amplitude and loads of character. Lots of interest here. Long, long finish. An excellent wine, if a touch oak obvious. Clean, dry, tidy finish that lingers on. Drink now.



All Reviews...

2012 10X Pinot Gris

91 :: Campbell Mattinson :: winefront.com.au :: 10/11/2013

Pinot gris and the Mornington Peninsula – and for that matter, the seaside lifestyle – are a pretty handy match. This is one of Australia's better examples of pinot gris. It has that slightly briny edge, which combined with citrus and melon and honeysuckle-like notes make for pretty attractive drinking. At the lunch table, perhaps with seafood or some kind of tossed salad, it would be lovely. Recommended. Drink 2013-2014.

92 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

A pinot gris to go out of your way for. Words rarely spoken. Has a briny edge, a tanginess, a cut of citrus and melon and a heady honeysuckle-like perfume. Spot on. There goes an afternoon. Drink to 2014.

2012 10X Pinot Noir

93 :: Huon Hooke :: huonhooke.com :: 3/11/2013

Medium to full red colour, with purple hints. Meaty and red cherry aromas, young and primary and brightly flavoured, with freshness and clean fruit, not especially complex, but beautifully done. A lovely core of sweet kirsch-like fruit. It has a future, too. Drink 2013-2022.

90 :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewilleatitself.com :: 5/11/2013

The Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noirs that I'm seeing from the 2012 vintage are an impressive bunch so far. This is good introduction although I'll admit it whets my appetite for the release of the single vineyard wines. Wild yeast fermented, spending 10 months in French oak barriques (18% new). Forest litter, strawberries, sap and sour cherries are the most discernible fragrances. The lighter colour is indicative of the subtlety of the wine on the palate. This is not a Pinot that relies on power. Pomegranate acidity and textured tannin work in tandem to structure the wine. The oak is prominent and takes a little while to settle but it's not overbearing or unbalanced. Further complexity via rhubarb and Asian spice. Looked its best on the third day of tasting.

93 :: Campbell Mattinson :: winefront.com.au :: 17/11/2013

This release from Ten Minutes by Tractor is a wine for the "look how far Australian pinot noir has come" basket. This is a gorgeous wine. Great drinking, great for the mid-term cellar, great for pulling out and impressing people. It's complex, juicy, savoury and yet its heart is full of fruit. Best of many worlds. Dark cherry, plum, smoky oak, dried herbs and undergrowth. Much about this wine is quite perfect. Drink: 2014-2021.

92 :: Andrew Graham :: ozwinereview.com :: 1/04/2014

If this multi-vineyard blend is anything to go by, the 2012 Ten Minutes by Tractor estate wines are going to be very, very exciting. Despite being 100% destemmed, this carries a firmness that you would normally see in something more whole bunchy, the tannins quite sappy and carefully honed. It smells lovely too – red fruit and clove oak, backed by an effortless, mid-weight palate. All very promising. Quintessential delicate Mornington Pinot really, needing just a little more concentration to be fabulous. What an entry level wine though! Many \$50 Pinots would struggle to match this style... Drink: 2014-2018

94 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

Much ado about something. There's a lot going on in this wine. The mix of dried herbs and undergrowth. The way black cherry and ripe plums slip hand-in-glove into smoky oak. It's impressive from the first attack to the final shot. Worthy of your best Pinot glassware. Drink to 2021.

2012 10X Rosé

90 :: Andrew Graham :: ozwinereview.com :: 1/07/2014

Pretty wine this. A genuinely lovely pink. More light Pinot Noir than dry Rosé, the nose softly pink pastel fresh but with a drawn dryness too. There's almost a pink lifesaver fruit character to the palate that carries everything forward. So gently musky and pretty! Dry finish brings things back. Very lively and fresh, if perhaps just a bit more acid driven than the genre expects. Drink: 2014.



All Reviews...

2012 10X Rosé

93 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

This is the wine of a maker in form. Pinot noir offers an excellent mix of complex flavour and acidity on the one hand and accessible drinking on the other. Strawberries, red cherries, earth and undergrowth hung from a tight line of acidity. Juicy and fragrant. Can (and should) be served well chilled. Drink to 2014.

95 :: Huon Hooke :: huonhooke.com :: 28/12/2013

Light smoke salmon colour. Very attractive developed pinot noir aromas; smoky, spicy and complex. The flavours are layered, and it shows complexity from positive age effect as well as some apparent barrel influences. Clean, dry finish with fresh acidity and good length. Excellent rose style, holding well with some age. Drink now.

4.5 stars :: Ben Thomas :: The Weekly Review :: 16/11/2013

Made from pinot noir from what's looking to be a great Mornington Peninsula vintage, this opens with meaty, charcuterie characters, but quickly reveals cherry, strawberry, cream, watermelon, and spice aromas. It's smooth, with a mineral-laced acid structure and bright, intense flavours – all forest berries and citrus. It's an easy-drinking, serious wine – something that's all too rare – with a lovely flow, a light grip and memorable finish.

92 :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewilleatitself.com :: 27/10/2013

A much deeper pink hue than is indicated by the bottle shot. Good rosé though, make no mistake. 26 hours on skins then into old French barriques for wild ferment and two months maturation. No malo, 100% Pinot Noir. It smells of sour cherries, musk, strawberries, citrus and leaf with scattered rose petals. Predominately savoury with the primary fruit sitting anterior on the palate. Textural; a touch of softness and give through the mid-palate, very fine and gentle drying phenolics. Sits ever so slightly below medium-bodied. An entirely admirable take on the style.

91 :: Campbell Mattinson :: winefront.com.au :: 10/11/2013

Rose made with Mornington Peninsula pinot noir grapes. It's juicy, fragrant, easy to drink. It carries a fine line of acidity but the cherry-like flavours are soft and accessible. There are some earthen, almost undergrowth-like notes here. It's entirely smashable – as rose should be. The Ten Minutes by Tractor team don't seem to have put a foot wrong this year. Serve chilled. Drink 2013-2015.

2012 10X Sauvignon Blanc

91 :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewilleatitself.com :: 1/11/2013

Near full-bodied, maintaining shape via ensconced acidity and phenolics which are grippy yet nuanced. Citrus holds court over grass with a hint of passionfruit in the mix. A whisp of smoky oak and some gravel. Nettles and herbs are present on the palate but they sit lower in the overall mix. There's a harmony about all these elements which makes the wine all the more appealing. High marks for execution.

93 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

This opens up to reveal a wine of quality and interest. Juicy and well-flavoured but with both the structure and texture to elevate it. Nectarine, smoke, woody spice and dry summer grasses. Has a few strings to its bow. Drink to 2014.

92 :: Campbell Mattinson :: winefront.com.au :: 10/11/2013

Ten Minutes by Tractor has incrementally become one of Australia's leading producers. This is a sauvignon blanc to go out and experience. It's so textural, so juicy, so well shaped. It's a dry, structural white wine first and a sauvignon blanc second. Nectarine, smoke, woody spice and dry summer grasses. It opens up in the glass well too; it's not a one-trick pony. Drink 2013-2015.



All Reviews...

2012 10X Sauvignon Blanc

93 :: Mike Bennie :: Wine Business Magazine :: 1/11/2013

Barrel time has helped build complexity into the variety, but it's not the main event preferring to showcase layers of tropical fruit flavours and citrus freshness into the wine. Thirst-slaking as it is, it's a much more interesting wine and should cellar a spell too.

2012 Estate Chardonnay

Good :: Sean Mitchell :: grapeobserver.com :: 1/07/2015

This is another good release from this estate. Perhaps more golden in colour than expected in the glass, the 2012 Estate Chardonnay has aromatics of earth, green mango and a hint of exotic spice. The palate is balanced, the length medium, the acid towards high and its flavours remind of earth and nuts. Good chardonnay.

94 :: Ken Gargett :: The Tasting Bench :: 28/11/2014

Several local wineries do both estate and single vineyard wines, and this is one of the best. The 2012 Estate Chardonnay is a cracker. Peach and stonefruit notes. Some ripe and tropical touches. An intriguing mix of freshness and slippery texture. Excellent length, finishing with a flick of acidity. The key is the fine balance throughout.

93 :: Andrew Graham :: ozwinereview.com :: 15/01/2015

The price hasn't changed and the quality continues. No doubting the joy of this wine, even in a vintage more favourable for reds than whites. Importantly, this is recognisable as a 10X Chardonnay from first whiff, the Golden Gaytime yeast/oak amalgam and full fruit punching from the start. After the acid driven '11 this is a much more open and nutty wine this year, perhaps a little broad but also with impressive depth and complexity. Ultimately I love this sort of fully worked, full tilt Chardonnay (yet with enough acidity to keep things tight) as its what Mornington Chardonnay should taste like.

Excellent :: Steve Leszczynski :: qwineblog.blogspot.com.au :: 18/02/2015

A step up from the 10X range and a peg back from the single vineyard Chardonnays. Regardless, this is another excellent wine in the line up. Made with 100% whole bunches and wild fermented, this wine is a blend of the three vineyards which Ten Minutes By Tractor is famous for. That is, Judd (47%), McCutcheon (37%) and Wallis (16%). Baked peach and little white flower florals set the mood. There's a vibrance but a humble complexity to the wine which exudes delicious stone fruit, a squeeze of citrus and a whipped butter like creaminess flowing through to a generous finish. Generous and flavoursome it certainly is. Excellent. You won't be disappointed.

94 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

Hand-picked, whole bunch-pressed, wild yeast barrel-fermented, new and used French oak for 10 months. Gleaming straw-green; an impressively complex and handsomely fruited chardonnay, citrusy acidity giving it drive and persistence. Drink to 2020.

93 :: Huon Hooke :: huonhooke.com :: 20/07/2014

Deep, golden yellow colour. The bouquet seems less developed than the colour, with creamy yeast-lees and lemon citrus aromas, and a suggestion of creme brulee. The palate is finer and more reserved than expected, with tightness and focus. A wine of real class. Long finish and satisfying. Will surely live, in contradiction of its relatively developed colour. Drink 2014-2018.

92 :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewillbeatitself.com :: 8/06/2014

Doesn't have the length of the 2012 Ten Minutes By Tractor single vineyard Chardonnays but it's still a very good rendition of the variety. Subtle florals, melon, nectarine and white peach leaning into fig. A line of mineral acidity plays foil to the breath of the mid-palate (72% malo, significant lees stirring). Somewhat buttery in the mouth, not overly so. Spicy, slightly cheesy and nutty. High-grade comfort Chardonnay.



All Reviews...

2012 Estate Pinot Noir

90 :: Huon Hooke :: huonhooke.com :: 24/08/2014

Medium to full red colour, with a tinges of both purple and brick. The bouquet is very stemmy, with appealing peppery, iodine-like herbal high-notes and although it has these notes, I don't think it's green. The palate is medium-bodied and firm, with life and energy and a lean but intense and long flavour. It will respond to further cellaring. An interesting and appealing style. Drink 2015 to 2020.

94 :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewilleatitself.com :: 30/05/2014

If there was any doubt over Ten Minutes by Tractor's place among the upper-echelon of Peninsula producers then the 2012 releases should put that to bed. I tasted this very briefly in January and it's really settled into its skin since then. Such an assured wine. Depth, detail and perfume. Primarily red-fruited with forest-like varietal character abounding. It's slinky in the mouth with a massage of satisfying tannin spread through the palate. Chocolate and cedar oak doesn't overwhelm the fruit, merely adding another layer of pleasure. Assorted spice with cinnamon and nutmeg the most notable. More immediately approachable than the single vineyard Pinots from the same vintage but there's not a massive drop in quality by any means.

Matthew Jukes :: Wine Rules :: 15/11/2014

This is a very fine wine indeed with distinguished fruit, epic oak control and a very long finish indeed. I love the way that the message is delivered with such subtlety and control. Nothing is rushed and everything is silky, generous and memorable. Even though this is a fairly young wine it is already into its stride such is the impeccable balance on display.

95 :: Andrew Graham :: ozwinereview.com :: 19/02/2015

This is the best 'Estate' Pinot Noir that Ten Minutes by Tractor have produced. In fact, I like this blend more than some of the more fancied single vineyard wines above it. Just delicious Mornington Peninsula Pinot. It smells like Mornington Pinot at its best - sap, raspberry, red cherry and just a little hint of prosciutto and eucalypt. There's a wavering on the nose between red fruit and something deeper and more meaty, without losing pinosity. The whole suite of Pinot aromas on show. It tastes ripe, full and powerful, but again the balancing act of red fruit with a silken tail. There's some late grunt, giving the red cherry fruit some grounding. Still, silken, ripe red fruits are the key here, the ripeness just held back enough to be balanced. I can't think of much else you'd want in a Mornington Pinot. Deeply satisfying.

Krystina Menegazzo :: ladonnadelvino.com :: 11/09/2014

Ten Minutes by Tractor have been around a good number of years now and by golly do they keep on performing. Based on an immaculate property on the Mornington Peninsula, it is little wonder how they are able to produce such lovely wines within such an idyllic landscape. The key vineyards for this Estate Pinot Noir include the Judd, McCutcheon and Wallis vineyards, which were planted in the early 1990s in Main Ridge. Delve gently into your glass to find a Pinot Noir full of wild strawberry and cranberry aromas backed by a lick of vanilla and pebbles. It's classically beautiful from the get go. The palate shows great balance, length and poise with almost a hint of sweet roasted vegetables flavour in the background. I don't often drink Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir, only because there are so many other wines I need to look at. I should probably change my tact, as this example shows how delicious they can be. On the finish, the tannins are on the very delicate side with not a hint of abrasiveness at all, meaning you will find it is well-suited to drinking on its own or with lighter flavoured and textured cuisines.

93 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

Hand-picked, wild yeast-fermented and macerated on skins for 20 days; matured for 14 months in new and used French barriques. Bright, light colour shows once again to be cautious with pinot colour, because this wine has considerable intensity and drive to its gently spicy small red fruits, which gain velocity on the savoury finish. Drink to 2019.



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2012 Estate Pinot Noir

95 :: Gary Walsh :: winefront.com.au :: 30/05/2014

It's a bit cloudy, but boy is it fine. Fresh smelling and scented with orange peel, tea, spice and stalk over bright red fruit. Light in the mouth with a creaminess that's cut back and shaped by lip smacking acidity - dynamic kind of feel here. Nestled in the red fruits is a smoky spicy layer of intrigue. Gentle rasp of tannin on a very long pure finish. So charismatic. So engaging. A pleasure to drink.

Very Good :: Sean Mitchell :: grapeobserver.com :: 28/02/2015

This pinot noir is sourced from Ten Minutes by Tractor's estate vineyards of Judd, McCutcheon and Wallis in Main Ridge on the Mornington Peninsula. It is unashamedly a good wine. Its aromatics remind of dried earth and thyme, with an undercurrent of cherry, strawberry and spice. The palate is almost exquisitely delicate, with cherry, strawberry and bacon flavours. It builds a more weighty impression of glycerol roundness with time in the glass and its acidity seems exactly right. Elegant in style, this is a refined and classy pinot noir. If this is sold out, as the website suggests, I can see why.

Excellent :: Steve Leszczynski :: qwineblog.blogspot.com.au :: 1/03/2015

A blend of three clones coming from fruit grown on the Wallis (53%), McCutcheon (41%) and Judd (6%) vineyards. And let's be honest, it's a blend of awesomeness! 100% destemmed and wild yeast fermented, the wine was bottled unfiltered after 16 months in oak. Pretty aromas. If you were handed a bunch of red and purple flowers smelling this good you'd be smiling ear to ear. But maybe its that little cured meaty bit which gets me in and seals the deal. Fruits are bright and soft and floating about delicately. There's a little gutsy factor in there too which adds a wonderful contrast. The price point is worth noting too. I reckon they could charge double and still get it comfortably. Excellent stuff.

2012 Judd Pinot Noir

95 :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewilleatitself.com :: 29/01/2014

Each of these single vineyard wines offers such a different proposition. Maybe that alone explains a lot of our modern preoccupation with the concept of terroir. The Judd Vineyard yields a tannic wine of profound gravitas in 2012. Savoury, entwined, earthen and sappy. It's difficult to tease apart individual components here, the wine refusing to yield to such simple representational techniques. It is twiggy and slightly smoky with the acid more embedded in the flavours than the McCutcheon. A touch less spice, hints of mushroom, tobacco, rhubarb and beetroot. Each attempt at a descriptor only seems to highlight the elusive nature of an utterly compelling Pinot Noir.

95 :: Campbell Mattinson :: winefront.com.au :: 19/07/2014

Limited run. Single vineyard. From the "highest and steepest" vineyard in the Ten Minutes by Tractor fold. Ultra fine-boned and ultra quality. Terrific pinot noir. As lively as it is lengthy. Notes of meat, spice, strawberry and frisky cherry, but ultimately seamless. Presents as a united front. Slatey, chalky, spicy - dry - tannin leads it through the finish. Top notch. Drink : 2015-2022+.

94 :: Mike Bennie :: Wine Business Monthly :: 1/08/2014

A wine of proud elegance here - ripe scents of cherry, mocha, light dried herbs, musk - a grand perfume for a wine that carries flavour very long in a trim, toned, honed medium-bodied flow of broody dark fruit and spice. Sultry smooth and very fine.

Excellent :: Steve Leszczynski :: qwineblog.blogspot.com.au :: 3/03/2015

One word sums this up for me...polished. Nothing seems out of place. The pure elegance of this wine is captivating. Delicious red fruits are met with earthy characters, a scattering of spice and savoury herbs. The beauty just grows on you. An excellent drop which will evolve into an even better wine in years to come - and that's a scary yet tempting thought.



All Reviews...

2012 Judd Pinot Noir

93 :: Andrew Graham :: ozwinereview.com :: 3/03/2015

What a pleasure to try this so just before some superhero Grand Cru Burgundy equivalents over the weekend. Happily, I think it shapes up so well that it makes you want to fist pump the air in celebration of Australia's Pinot progression. I got to say though that I prefer the standard estate Pinot at this stage in time, it's perfect balance just pure Pinot beauty. Indeed this is a sappy, meaty wine for 10X, the vintage warmth and low yields giving this a real dry cherry rasp without quite the typical Judd Vineyard beauty. Still, it carries that distinctive red fruit too, just with an extra concentration to lend a more muscular, tannic personality than normal. Ultimately the style and concentration here is top shelf, just a bit 'too much' for me to love just yet. Best drinking: 2016-2022

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95 :: Huon Hooke :: huonhooke.com :: 24/08/2014

Medium red colour, with a faint tinge of purple. The bouquet is stemmy and herbal, with a strong whole-bunch ferment character which includes some traces of potato peelings. Even a hint of iodine. The palate is medium to full and quite well endowed with tannins, adding a firm, solid structure to the wine. It has some cherry fruit richness and sweetness in the middle and then the tannins ride in and cleanse the finish. An interest-packed wine that could go on to be outstanding with further age. Drink 2015-2022.

Very Good :: Sean Mitchell :: grapeobserver.com :: 1/04/2015

The Judd vineyard is ever so slightly higher than the McCutcheon, the latter being 200 metres at its highest point, the former 206 metres...Which then leaves us with the wine. For any or none of the above reasons (we are talking about wine after all), it presents completely differently to the McCutcheon pinot noir. It is initially rather shy and reticent in the glass, requiring some coaxing to extract its scent. Deli meats and raspberry characters emerge in an expression that is more Burgundian in character. On the palate, the acidity frames a classy and gentle expression of cherry and raspberry and proves a very drinkable wine.

95 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

Hand-picked, wild yeast-fermented for 20 days maceration on skins, then 14 months maturation in new and used French barriques. Deeper, more purple than the Estate Pinot, there is a greater depth to the plum and cherry fruit, the supple tannins and oak providing seductive mouthfeel. Drink to 2022.

2012 McCutcheon Chardonnay

93 :: Andrew Graham :: ozwinereview.com :: 1/04/2015

Complexity. That's the appeal of this 10X Chardonnay. In fact, that's the appeal of all the Ten Minutes by Tractor wines, which have a level of detail that suggests mastery. The '12 Ten Minutes by Tractor Chardonnays are generally thicker than some other vintages, with the warm vintage more suited to Pinot than Chardonnay. Still, that extra warmth translates into even more weight than normal, the style bold and full. This McCutcheon looks particularly forward, a golden yellow beast heavy with Golden Gaytime caramel yeasty richness, some gumball sulphides and a whole lot of overripe nectarine fruit. I can't stress enough the complexity here – it's almost too complex, with mealy, gumball sulphide complexity. The tangy and slightly warm palate is heavily worked – perhaps too much so, but long and so layered. A wonderful 'big' wine, if just teetering on the edge of too much... Best drinking: 2015-2017



All Reviews...

2012 McCutcheon Chardonnay

Excellent :: Steve Leszczynski :: qwineblog.blogspot.com.au :: 1/02/2015

I love the power and drive of this wine. It's like a tomboy in a burlesque show. Unmistakable citrusy fruit and a flash of stone fruit perfume. The fruit and oak are harmonious. Just a delightful drink. Stone fruit washes back through leaving a long a moreish finish.

Very Good :: Sean Mitchell :: grapeobserver.com :: 1/07/2015

This is the most sublime of the Ten Minutes by Tractor chardonnays I have tasted. The aromatics are alluring, reminding of lemon and cashews. It is the palate though that drew me back to the glass. Textural, soft, yet with hidden power, its lemon, stone and cashew characters in focus. A serious wine that is immediately enjoyable.

Winsor Dobbin :: golfmag.com.au :: 1/03/2015

A classic cool-climate chardonnay from a winery that is one of the shining stars of the region. The fruit was hand-harvested, whole bunch pressed and went through indigenous fermentation. A wine of stellar quality.

Excellent :: Steve Leszczynski :: qwineblog.blogspot.com.au :: 21/02/2015

I love the power and drive of this wine. It's like a tomboy in a burlesque show. Unmistakable citrusy fruit and a flash of stone fruit perfume. The fruit and oak are harmonious. Just a delightful drink. Stone fruit washes back through leaving a long a moreish finish.

92+ :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewilleatitself.com :: 29/01/2014

More forward and extroverted than the Wallis. A compact Chardonnay, slightly rough around the edges at the moment but it becomes increasingly expansive and harmonious over time. Peach cobbler and pineapple with grapefruit and lime cut. Some savoury bready traits and curious note of basil. Has breadth of flavour. Nougat oak is prominent here and there is a good deal of woodspice. A powerful Chardonnay that needs a bit more time in the bottle right now.

92 :: Campbell Mattinson :: winefront.com.au :: 20/07/2014

Not the easiest chardonnay to assess. Straw coloured. Lively-but-full flavour. Tropical fruit, pear, lime, sweet/toasty oak, woodspice. Seems fruit-forward for the most part but sings long and citrussy through the finish. Indeed there's a steeliness there. I'd say this is best consumed young but then, it still seems to be sorting itself out. Drink 2014-2018.

95 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

The vineyard was planted in '93 with the very good Penfolds P58 clone, and like all the Ten Minutes by Tractor wines, had an unusually long period of veraison to harvest (74 days against an average of 56 days), despite small bunches and low yields. Full straw-green; the complex bouquet, with an amalgam of stone fruit, fig and classy oak leads into the rounded, almost polished, mouthfeel of the P58 clone, the finish long and balanced. Drink to 2020.

2012 McCutcheon Pinot Noir

94 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

Light, clear colour, more to red than purple; has a scented, perfumed bouquet, and a silky red fruit palate; the length and line are excellent, the tannins fine. Drink to 2020.



All Reviews...

2012 McCutcheon Pinot Noir

95 :: Andrew Graham :: ozwinereview.com :: 1/06/2015

Exceptional single vineyard Mornington Peninsula Pinot Noir from one of my absolute favourite producers. I really should put a bottle of this up against equivalent priced Burgundy (I'd go for something from Nuits-St-Georges perhaps for Mornington) as the 10X would win against all but the absolute superstars. Much cheaper too. It's an immediately expressive wine too, the nose sappy, meaty and aromatic with a pinosity that sings. Superb. Creamy oak is the only outlier here, the ripe red fruit palate a cavalcade of measured richness, the beautiful red fruit on the tail is excellent, with firm, drying tannins to finish off. Just excellent wine. Drink: 2015-2023.

Very Good :: Sean Mitchell :: grapeobserver.com :: 1/04/2015

In the glass, the wine is pleasingly serious in intent. A light intensity ruby colour in the glass, it has very expressive and expansive aromatics of game meats, bacon fat, incense and warm tea trees that can be nothing other than pinot noir, the latter providing a regional touch. On the palate, the wine is harmony, with its acid frame just right and the finish towards long. As can be expected from this cooler site, the overall impression is elegant and restrained.

Excellent :: Steve Leszczynski :: qwineblog.blogspot.com.au :: 24/02/2015

I dig the masculinity of this wine. Very savoury with depth. Plums, red fruits, dark cherry and earthiness define this wine. It just has a swagger as it moves about which I find appealing. The fruit is a little tight but generous giving out some cured meat type characters. Damn this is a great drop and a pleasure to drink. Time will certainly be its friend for at least a decade.

92 :: Huon Hooke :: huonhooke.com :: 26/08/2014

Medium to light red colour with a trace of purple. The aromas are stemmy and strongly vegetal, with an echo of greenness; the palate is sweetish but also sinewy and lean-ish, with a slight lack of primary fruit, although there is generosity of flavour and the rather obvious whole-bunch influence takes the flavours and aromas to a higher level than simple fruitiness.

94 :: Campbell Mattinson :: winefront.com.au :: 20/07/2014

Surly pinot noir at this early stage of its life but it has the goods in store. It's a dry, flinty, smoky wine with crushed spice and boysenberry/strawberry notes to the fore. It has excellent intensity, within a varietal context, and more than a little broodiness to its personality. I wouldn't drink this young; it needs time. It knows where it's going though and it'll be worth following/meeting it there. Smoky/spicy/dry tannin is a highlight. All round it's impressive to say the least. Drink 2017-2023+.

94+ :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewilleatitself.com :: 29/01/2014

The McCutcheon Vineyard Pinot is a wine of immense structure, innate layered complexity, power and depth. Aromas and flavours of raspberry, sour cherry and an intriguing note of blueberry. Sap, gum leaf and struck flint. A good deal of power for such an agile wine. The acidity is a touch nippy but the architecture is shared evenly with assertive, tightly knit tannin. Extremely complex spice to close. My guess is that this will be something truly special in five to ten years.

Chris Shanahan :: chrisshanahan.com :: 18/06/2014

A group of us tasted McCutcheon pinot alongside three contrasting styles –Lerida Estate Cullerin Canberra District 2013 (\$35, also reviewed today), Tout Pres by Farr Geelong 2011 (\$110) and Hurley Vineyard Garamond Mornington Peninsula 2012 (\$75). The wines all rated well with the group. But the McCutcheon finally towered above all but Tout Pres by Farr (a story for another day). It delivered all the aromatic, ripe, sappy, juicy character of this great grape variety – backed by the firm tannins to see it through many years in bottle. The intense colour and flavour noted by the winemakers at harvest comes through in the final wine. They attribute this intensity, in part, to the "longest ever veraison–harvest interval (70 days vs 57 day average)".



All Reviews...

2012 Wallis Chardonnay

Very Good :: Sean Mitchell :: grapeobserver.com :: 1/05/2015

This is another very good release by Ten Minutes by Tractor. From P58 chardonnay vines planted in 1992 (20 years old at vintage), the vineyard here is situated on a gentle north easterly slope at 142 metres of altitude in the Main Ridge (unofficial) sub region of the Mornington Peninsula. In terms of style, the wine itself is fermented in 22% new oak barriques, has a natural malolactic ferment and is matured for 10 months in new French oak (also 22%). Pedigree established, how is the wine? Happily, it performs strongly. A lemon/gold colour, it has aromatics of cashew, lemon rind, spice, lemon and peach. The length is initially reluctant, but long upon examination, providing clean and crystalline flavours of cashew and nuts. This is a serious chardonnay that merits your interest.

94 :: Campbell Mattinson :: winefront.com.au :: 18/07/2014

Wallis is the standout chardonnay from the 2012 Ten Minutes by Tractor releases. This reaches towards the profound. Lactose, grapefruit, citrus, spice – there are many good flavours going on here but it's the overall effect that is the thing. It has X factor. It has terrific length. It's one of the stars of the vintage. Drink 2015-2019+.

Excellent :: Steve Leszczynski :: qwineblog.blogspot.com.au :: 1/03/2015

Of all the Chardonnays in the range, this is certainly at the top of the tree. And that's not a putting down the others, this just reaches a height of elegance, delicacy and purity the others don't. White fleshed peachy goodness with almost a five spice aroma. It's textural and lean with a wash of minerality. The balance between fruit and acid certainly hits the spot. And if all that isn't enough, the length seems to last for hours.

Excellent :: Steve Leszczynski :: qwineblog.blogspot.com.au :: 6/03/2015

Of all the Chardonnays in the range, this is certainly at the top of the tree. And that's not a putting down the others, this just reaches a height of elegance, delicacy and purity the others don't. White fleshed peachy goodness with almost a five spice aroma. It's textural and lean with a wash of minerality. The balance between fruit and acid certainly hits the spot. And if all that isn't enough, the length seems to last for hours.

92 :: Huon Hooke :: huonhooke.com :: 20/07/2014

Deep, golden yellow colour, the bouquet showing toast and grilled nuts and some malty developed notes. The palate is full-bodied, deep, rich and dense, with a lot of gravitas and weight. A big wine, with all its components in good harmony, and plenty of length - if not a wine of great finesse. Drink 2014 to 2017.

95 :: Andrew Graham :: ozwinereview.com :: 27/10/2014

Wow. Now this is a textural dynamo. The Wallis vineyard may be Ten Minutes by Tractor's earliest maturing Chardonnay plot, yet the wines retain a delicacy that defies belief. And this 2012 is another superstar. What makes this special is it (again) shows that you can have a wine that is picked from ripe fruit, completes a full malolactic fermentation and yet still manages to retain acidity and vitality. Admittedly you'll never accuse it of being lean and light, but that is sort of missing the point of what Mornington Chardonnay is meant to be - that is full flavoured and unapologetically curvy. This smells sexy from first whiff too - a nose of custard and apple pie with white peach, chalk and white flowers. You can smell fruit, lees and oak, all having a say and adding to the layers, without dominating. Those inputs follow through to a palate layered with whipped cream oak/lees and white nectarine fruit, before finishing with surprising acidity. It's not quite as nervy as the 2011 but a more settled and complete wine than the 2010. No surprises then I drank most of a bottle of this. And I'd do the same again in a flash. Drink 2014-2019.

96 :: James Halliday :: 2015 Australian Wine Companion :: 1/07/2014

As with McCutcheon, planted to the P58 clone (in '92) on the oldest and lowest Main Ridge estate vineyard. Counterintuitively, this has the greatest intensity and drive of the Chardonnays produced each year by Ten Minutes by Tractor, grapefruit jostling with white peach on the fresh palate and its lingering finish. Drink to 2022.



All Reviews...

2012 Wallis Chardonnay

95 :: Jeremy Pringle :: winewilleatitself.com :: 29/01/2014

As always, the Wallis Vineyard exhibits the more refined character of the two Chardonnays. All the delicacy, detail and definition we have come to expect from the site are on display. The fruit intensity feels at an all-time high here and the oak seems to sit slightly lower in the mix than usual...although it is still significant. Flavours are so precise. There's a lot going on – white stonefruit, honeysuckle, smoked almonds, pear, grapefruit etc – but each element is given space to breathe. Super-fine acidity carries the wine towards an emphatic wet pebble finish. With air, a slight waxiness develops in the mouth. Simply superb.

93 :: Ralph Kyte–Powell :: Age Good Food :: 19/08/2014

A complex melange of stone fruits, creamy butterscotch and leesy notes. Barrel influence is subdued, flavour is ripe and complete, smooth and lingering.