



Sonya Logan, Editor

**D**ifficult, fickle, temperamental and fussy and just some of the words used to describe the growing and making of Pinot Noir. But, the best of examples of it are alluring wines that make withstanding its idiosyncrasies worthwhile.

Prompted by the International Pinot Noir Celebration held in Victoria's Mornington Peninsula in late January, this issue of the *Wine & Viticulture Journal* dedicates a number of pages to articles on the variety.

We start with some feedback from some of the winemakers present at the Pinot Celebration on aspects of making Pinot that generated keen debate during the event, namely planting density, whole bunch fermentation, filtration, fining, time in oak, and bottle age. We then put Bass Phillip winemaker and chief executive Phillip Jones on the spot to give us some insight into the making of the Bass Phillip Reserve Pinot Noir as part of a new column we've dubbed 'Super Wines' in which we profile Australian wines that have achieved icon status, high-level recognition in international circles, or are simply acknowledged by industry and consumers alike as being exceptional. Given this issue's focus on Pinot and the fact that the Bass Phillip Reserve is the only Pinot classified as 'exceptional' in the latest Langton's Classification of Australian Wine, we thought it was a prime candidate for the first column.

Continuing our Pinot coverage, Richard Smart explores the potential for growth of the Tasmanian wine sector, particularly for Pinot, while our Tasmanian correspondent Mark Smith provides an update on the research being carried out in the state into the variety. Journalist Matt Byrne attended January's Pinot Celebration, and provides a summary of the event before presenting his regional profile on the Mornington Peninsula which focusses on the region's ongoing efforts to improve its Pinots and, thus, bolster its standing among the top Pinot-producing regions of the world.

Our Pinot coverage is topped with a varietal report and tasting featuring \$30-\$40 Victorian and Tasmanian Pinots.

Thank you to those people who have taken the time to let us know what they think about our new publication. We encourage readers to keep on giving us their feedback to ensure we continue to provide you with articles that help you make better wine, grow better grapes and run a more successful wine business.

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**Cover:** Rosé Revolution mastermind Leanne De Bortoli (see story page 73).  
Photo: Rowena Naylor