



Crittenden Estate The Zumma Pinot Noir 2019 (Mornington Peninsula)

In 2019, yields were down across the board because of poor flowering, said Rollo Crittenden. After that, the growing season was ideal, save for a few heat spikes, resulting in a frenzied end to harvest to manage sugars. Evidently achieved because, said Crittenden, it was a fantastic vintage and, I might add, I'd agree with Jukes that this is perhaps the best Zumma yet – really quite elegant, favouring intensity over density/extraction – much in the same vein as the 2017, which I awarded 95 points in Decanter. The winemaker firmly believes that investing in vine health – looking after microbial growth with composting – has flowed through into the wines from the vineyard his parents originally planted in 1982. Located in the north, downhill on the Port Phillip Bay (western) side of the peninsula where, said Rollo Crittenden, it is warmer, the attention to vine health has helped secure tannin ripeness with moderate alcohol levels. This has allowed Crittenden to be very hands off in the winery, using very little new oak and gentler maceration. The Zumma 2019 is a bright, translucent hue, with perfumed, well-defined red and black cherry fruit to the fresh, energetic palate – not a jot of fat here, but not lean either. Rather, long and silky, with fine tannins, crushed stone minerality and a lick of cherrystone to the weightless, perfumed finish. Terrific balance and refinement – insinuating tannins and acidity – makes for great broach-ability and, I suspect, good mid-term ageing. It was cold-soaked for five days (20% whole bunch) prior to fermenting in French oak fermenters. The Zumma Pinot Noir 2019 then spent 11 months in light toast French barriques and puncheons. Quite a difference from the 2010 and 2014 vintages (reviewed here), which aged for 16 months in oak. I prefer the lighter touch. 13% RRP £27.00 Dartmouth Wine Co., David Alexander Wine, Bristol Fine Wine.

Sarah Ahmed - The Wine Detective

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<https://thewinedetective.co.uk/blog/mornington-peninsula-eight-great-pinot-noirs>