



## 2018 MADAM SASS CENTRAL OTAGO PINOT NOIR

Madam Sass lived her life with daring indulgence. She is our homage to heroines from Central Otago's gold rush era; when gutsy women held little regard for the establishment and relished taking risks.

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### THE PLACE

Bendigo is renowned for vibrant dark fruit flavours and finely tuned acidity. Formed from glaciers grinding schist rocks to smaller gravels and finer particles, the soil is rich in minerals, free draining and perfect for growing exceptional Pinot Noir. Literally named after a miner's original gold claim, the Claim 431 Vineyard in Bendigo sits firmly at the heart of New Zealand's illustrious gold rush history.

### THE TASTE

This enticing Pinot Noir is full of attitude, style and extravagance. Decadent blackberry and sweet dark cherry aromas are delivered with opulence, chalky tannins and complex oak spice.

### THE VINTAGE

The writing was on the wall – the 2018 vintage was always going to be good. Bendigo was blessed with a spectacular growing season, ensuring luscious grapes bursting with vibrant fruit flavour.

We harvested these little morsels, mostly by hand, treating them carefully to ensure their skins remained unblemished. Once they arrived at our winery, they were gently de-stemmed, treated to a cool soak, then fermented with wild and cultured yeasts. Batches were hand plunged to preserve that rich garnet colour, delivering flavours that heave with decadent spice and pungent cherry.

The wine was aged, for 8 long months, some in French Oak, which adds a robust tannin backbone to contrast those sassy, berry fruit flavours. This Pinot Noir is sophisticated and has depth, much like Madam Sass herself.

This one is a beauty – ready to drink now. You will be richly rewarded if you can wait though.

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SASSY 