



# PEPPER TREE

## 'VENUS BLOCK' SINGLE VINEYARD 2019 Orange Chardonnay

*The Venus Block derives its name from the first name of the woman who ran a grazing property on the land for many years. Situated at our high altitude vineyard in Orange, the 'Venus Block' is 800m above sea level, ensuring a long cool ripening season, perfectly suited to Chardonnay.*

The 2019 vintage is an intense cool climate Chardonnay with flavours of stone fruits, fig and melon seductively integrated with barrel ferment complexity. A crisp and elegant style of Chardonnay, showing great purity of fruit.

Head Winemaker, Gwyn Olsen

### VINTAGE

The high altitude of our Orange vineyard on the slopes of Mt Canobolas saved us from the worst of the hot dry conditions that prevailed throughout NSW in early 2019.

After a very cold winter the weather quickly warmed up and the summer was quite hot and dry by Orange standards. Several fortuitous rain events localised around Mt Canobolas helped our dam and bore supplies to give us enough moisture to produce 'normal' crop levels and canopies throughout the growing season.

Due to the overall dry conditions all fruit was picked in good, disease free condition. Some outstanding parcels of Chardonnay and Riesling were picked and Sauvignon Blanc was solid. Pinot Noir ripened well with good flavour and acid. Some excellent Shiraz and Cabernet parcels were also picked later in the season.

Overall a good to very good vintage.

### APPELLATION / GI

Orange (New South Wales) 100%

### WINEMAKING

The block was hand picked in the cool morning before being chilled and whole bunch pressed. The resulting juice was fermented in a 3,000L French oak vat named Allen and the balance in old French oak puncheons for 10 months. The resulting wine was blended, stabilised and prepared for bottling.

### VINEYARD

The Orange region of New South Wales is one of Australia's newest premium regions being favoured for its high altitude cool climate. Situated approximately 270 km west of Sydney the topography and soils of the Orange region are dominated by the extinct volcano Mt Canobolas. The present day peak of the mountain is at 1400m and vineyards in the region are planted at elevations as high as 1100m with the lowest elevations in the region being 600m.

Soils in the central part of the region are derived from the basaltic lavas of the old volcano, and primarily consist of deep red to brown free draining clay loams.

#### TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

BLEND:	Chardonnay (100%)
BOTTLING DATE:	02/2020
BOTTLE NUMBER RANGE:	1 - 5400
PH:	3.27
TA:	6.4 g/l
ALC/VOL:	13.8%
STANDARD DRINKS:	8.2



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