



REVIEWS OF HURLEY VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

ESTATE 2001 (Out first wine, and this is our first review.)

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion 2005*

'The 2001 release was a dream start for the vineyard. Very rich and complex spicy plummy fruit with a savoury twist; excellent length and persistence. A singularly impressive first-up effort. **Rating** 93 points. **Drink** 2008. **Four and a Half Stars.**'

ESTATE 2003

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion 2007*

'Powerful, concentrated black fruits/plum; intense and long; super-powerful style with high alcohol evident. MV6, 114 and 115 clones; 320 cases made. **Rating** 94 points. **Drink** 2011 **Five Stars.**'

Peter Bourne, *Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine, June/July 2005*

'"Everything that is old is new again" might be used to sum up the viticultural practices of Kevin Bell at this relatively new vineyard (planted in 1998). Bell uses an ancient Burgundian method of vine propagation on a third of his vineyard. The aim is to reduce yield per vine, increase root density and encourage the vines to extract additional character from the soil. The result is a brawny pinot, of which only 500 cases are made, with a bouquet of dense, dark berries and firm but fine-grained tannins.'

ESTATE 2006

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion 2009*

'Supple, velvety and seductive mouthfeel and flavours; perfectly ripened plum and black cherry fruit; silky tannins and balanced oak. **Rating** 95 points. **To** 2013. **Five Stars.**'

LODESTONE 2004

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion 2007*

'Much riper, richer fruit more towards black fruits and plums, the texture more to velvet than silk. A choice between finesse and complexity, but not quality. **Rating** 94. **Drink** 2012 **Five Stars.**'

Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine, October/March 2006

'A seriously deep, complex pinot with gamy and sous bois overtones, some stemmy whole-bunch sidelights and fairly firm tannins to close. Best served with protein. Smooth but lively in the mouth. **Rating** 91 points. **Four Stars. Cellar** 4+ years.'

Huon Hooke, *Good Living, 4 December 2007*

'The 2005 and '06 Vintages have yielded many rippers. Let's look at Mornington first. Kevin Bell at Hurley Vineyard has a trio of stunners: '05 Lodestone ..., Hommage ... and Garamond are all superb, exciting wines. Bell has refined his wines from the oaky, overripe clunky wines some years back to today's lovely, svelte, Burgundian trio, with only 25 per cent new oak on each and nothing over 13.5 per cent alcohol.'

LODESTONE 2007

Peter Forrestal, *Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine, April/May 2010*

'The most appealing of the three Hurley single-vineyard wines to drink now, with toasty, nutty, vanilla and plum to dark-cherry aromas. It's a finely structured pinot with vitality and tang. **Rating** 92 points. **Cellar** 6 years. **Four Stars.**'

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion 2010*

'Slightly lighter colour than Hommage; more savoury/forestry nuances to the bouquet, the palate responding in kind; long, gently savoury finish. Will be ready first. **Rating** 94 points. **To** 2013 **Four and a Half Stars.**'

HOMMAGE 2004

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion 2007*

'Even greater richness and depth than the varietal, the even higher alcohol (15.1%) making its statement. Very long, warm finish; black fruits and spice throughout; 75 cases made. **Rating** 95 points. **Drink** 2013 **Five stars.**'

HOMMAGE 2005**Peter Forrestel, *The Sunday Times*, 7 November 2007**

‘Small pinot specialist from Mornington. This is my favourite: deep, pure, concentrated redcurrent made more complex by savoury notes. **Rating** 17.5 points

Ralph Kyte-Powell, *The Age*, 31 July 2007

‘This pinot from a promising Mornington Peninsula Vineyard has a real suggestion of Burgundy about it. At odds with the ‘fruit bomb’ type of antipodean pinot, it’s also fresher than some previous Hurley pinots. Attractive cherry, spice, undergrowth and gamey traits mark a complex, subtle wine. Silky, fine and very long, it improves nicely with air. Drink over four years plus. **Five Stars**’

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion* 2008

‘Fractionally deeper colour than the Garamond; distinctly more complexity in both texture and structure; longer finish. Amazing the wines should have the same alcohol. **Rating** 94 points. **To 2012 Five Stars.**’

HOMMAGE 2007**Jane Faulkner, *The Age*, 10 February 2006**

‘Hurley Vineyard produce several distinct pinot noirs from its Balnarring site but only about 160 cases of Hommage (winemaker Kevin Bell has decided to use the French word on the label). It’s a gorgeous drink, enjoyable for its poise and alluring aromatics and to me the prettiest in the range. The ’07 is restrained and drinking beautifully now with delicately spiced cherry and red fruit notes, soft yet quite fine tannins with the oak neatly integrated, cleaning acidity and persistent finish.’

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion* 2010

‘Rich, scented bouquet and a supple palate; fruit more to the red spectrum, the tannins fine, oak in its proper place. **Rating** 94 points. **To 2015. Five Stars.**’

GARAMOND 2004**Tim White, *The Australian Financial Review*, 21-23 July 2006**

‘This is smart; wild strawberries and poached pear. Really deep with some toffee too. And fleshes up nicely in the mouth: rich and vinous with lush strawberry/raspberry mid-palate, but also sapidity. Gently grippy tannins to close. Needs a year or so to unwind. **Rating** 93(94)/100.’

Jane Faulkner, *The Age*, 10 February 2006

‘Named after French artisan Claude Garamond, the creator of the font that features on the label for its elegance, it’s also an apt description of what’s in the bottle. Garamond is the prettiest of the Hurley wines – delicate aromatics and underneath a distinct, very attractive plasticine/stony note melded with forest floor nuances, some spicy plummy fruit with a hint of vanillin oak. Ultra fine silky tannins and soft on the palate with excellent length. Totally alluring.’

Jeremy Oliver, *Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine*, August/September 2006

‘From an emerging Mornington Peninsula vineyard of some stature comes this rather Francophile, savoury pinot with a fragrance of rose petals, cherries, berries and dried herbs plus hints of stalks and funky, meaty, undergrowth-like nuances. Surprisingly concentrated, its juicy palate of deep red and blackberry/cherry flavour and caramel/vanilla-like oak exudes a lusciousness and focus. Framed by firm, fine-grained tannins, it’s supple, charming, finely balanced and likely to flesh out further. A wine worthy of the region’s elite pinot makers. To cellar.’

GARAMOND 2005**Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine, August/September 2006**

‘The deepest and most powerful of Hurley’s three single-block pinots. It has earthy, savoury complexities and some delicious fruit sweetness buried on the mid-palate. Good tannin structure too – it’s more than just a fruit bomb. **Rating** 93 points. **Five Stars. Cellar** 5+ years.’

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion* 2008

‘Light red-purple; clean, fragrant, red cherry aromas; a pretty wine, best enjoyed sooner than later. **Rating** 90 points. **To 2015. Four and a Half Stars.**’

GARAMOND 2007**Peter Bourne, *Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine*, February/March 2010**

‘The Hurley Vineyard was established by Kevin Bell and Tricia Byrnes in 1998. They produce three individual-vineyard wines: Lodestone, Hommage and Garamond. The pinnacle is the 2007 Garamond, which has a sublime perfume of mulberry, sweet plums intertwined with warm spices, coffee and savoury walnut notes. Full-flavoured yet beguilingly subtle, it already shows the complexity that will lead to a long cellaring future.’

Philip Rich, *Financial Review Magazine*, 27 November 2009

‘Following on their suburb 2006 pinots, Kevin Bell and Tricia Byrnes have produced a stunning line-up of Balnarring single-vineyard wines from 2007 (the Lodestone is also worth hunting down) that places them in the top echelon of Aussie pinot producers. From an east-facing vineyard planted in 1998, the

2007 Garamond is deeply coloured and aromatically complex, with dark cherry, five spice, and just a little vanilla and cedar from the 33 per cent new oak, while the powerful and concentrated palate is light on its feet. Ripe, fine and persistent tannins run throughout the wine and it should still be drinking well ten years from now.'

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion 2010*

'Strong, bright colour; a powerful, layered palate with dark plum fruit and considerable length; good oak balance and integration. Needs a minimum of five years. **To 2017 Rating** 95 points. **Five Stars.**'

HARCOURT 2006

James Halliday, *Australian Wine Companion 2009*

'Has a little more thrust and verve than the Estate, yet not more weight; long palate with dark plum flavours and a long, Peacock's tail finish. **To 2014 Rating** 96 points. **Five Stars.**'

Philip Rich, *Financial Review Magazine*, 27 November 2009

'The Hurley pinots have come a long way since ... Kevin Bell and partner Tricia Byrnes planted nine acres on their property at Balnarring on the Mornington Peninsula in 1998. And, while three single-vineyard wines were released from the 2005 vintage, there are only two wines this year, including the very good Estate Pinot Noir 2006 (365 cases). Even better, though, is the wonderfully complex Harcourt Pinot Noir (250 cases). A blend of the best barrels, spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg intermingle with red fruits and a little undergrowth on the nose, while the palate has layers of luscious pinot fruit, silky tannins and a long, satisfying finish.'