



Coldstream Hills

Yarra Valley Merlot 2007

Coldstream Hills was established in 1985 by James and Suzanne Halliday and has since grown to become one of Australia's leading and most awarded small wineries.

Situated in the picturesque Yarra Valley east of Melbourne, the steep close planted vineyards of Coldstream Hills have become a signature of the region. So too have its wines, which reflect regional character, consistency and style.

Although a temperamental variety in the vineyard, Merlot is particularly well suited to the warmer slopes of the Yarra Valley. Sourced from hillside vineyards in the Lower and Upper Yarra Valley, Coldstream Hills Merlot is fermented using both open and staic fermenters, prior to fifteen months maturation in French oak barriques.

The Lower Yarra component generally provides concentration and structure with plum and cherry notes dominating; the Upper Yarra is more elegant in style and brings to the wine cherry, black olive and spice.

Winemaker Comments Andrew Fleming

Vineyard Region

Yarra Valley

Vintage Conditions

Despite the Yarra Valley's difficulties with frost, hail, bushfires and drought, Coldstream Hills remained relatively unscathed. As the majority of our vineyards are planted on hillside slopes, frost caused minimal damage. Water availability was a concern, but below average yields, early flavour development and harvest reduced irrigation requirements. The cool nights throughout the ripening season ensured that natural acidity levels remained balanced with minimal adjustment necessary.

Technical Analysis

Harvest Date March 2007

pH 3.42

Acidity 7.0g/L

Alcohol 13.5%

Residual Sugar 0.5g/L

Bottling Date August 2008

Peak Drinking To 2015.

Grape Variety

Merlot

Maturation

15 months in French oak barriques - 27% new.

Colour

Medium dark red with a purple hue.

Nose

Vibrant characters of cherry and dark plum are evident, with underlying black olive and spice. Charry, cedary oak is evident in the background and provides additional complexity.

Palate

The palate is elegant and round, with good texture and length. The tannins are chalky and persistent, giving the wine structure, concentration and cellaring capability. Fruit characters of dark cherry and plum dominate, with black olive and Christmas cake spice also evident. Charry, toasty oak further enhances the palate, but does not dominate.