



Coldstream Hills

Yarra Valley Merlot 2008

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 predominantly in the Upper Yarra Valley, Coldstream Hills Merlot is fermented using both open and static fermenters, prior to sixteen months maturation in French oak barriques.

Winemaker Comments Andrew Fleming

Vineyard Region

Yarra Valley

Vintage Conditions

The growing season began well, as winter rainfall had provided some moisture to the soil and the risk of frost had been reduced. However, well below average spring rainfall caused considerable concern, with irrigation dams being at record low levels. Fortunately, late spring and early summer rains fell just at the right time, particularly as fruit set and crops were above average. A cool February allowed even ripening with good acid retention, however a blistering heatwave in March made conditions extremely difficult. A vintage with two distinctive halves, 2008 will be remembered as being compressed, hot and very challenging.

Technical Analysis

Harvest Date March 2008

pH 3.66

Acidity 6.0g/L

Alcohol 13.5%

Residual Sugar 0.2g/L

Bottling Date August 2009

Peak Drinking To 2016

Grape Variety

Merlot

Maturation

This wine was matured for 16 months in French oak barriques - a third new.

Colour

Dark medium cherry red.

Nose

Attractive dark cherry fruit characters with black olive and spice. Cedary, toasty oak is evident and will integrate into the wine as it develops. The Upper Yarra component adds further complexity with Christmas cake spice and hints of nutmeg.

Palate

Medium bodied palate with persistent powdery tannins and depth. Dark cherry and black olive characters are present with underlying Christmas cake and spice. Toasty oak underpins the wine's structure adding further complexity and length.