



Coldstream Hills

Merlot 2006

Coldstream Hills was established in 1985 by James and Suzanne Halliday. From its initial vintage of 450 cases it has grown to become one of Australia's leading small wineries with a reputation that belies its size.

Situated in the cool Yarra Valley east of Melbourne, Coldstream Hills' steep, close-planted vineyards have become a signature of the region. Its climate is warmer than Burgundy and cooler than Bordeaux so it comes as no surprise that its strongest varieties include Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

Although a temperamental variety in the vineyard, Merlot is particularly well suited to the warmer slopes in the Yarra Valley. The Coldstream Hills winery has become renowned for producing excellent Merlot. Sourced from hillside vineyards in the lower and upper Yarra Valley, Coldstream Hills Merlot is fermented using both open and static fermenters, prior to 15 months maturation in French oak barriques (approximately one third new).

Winemaker Comments Andrew Fleming

Vineyard Region

Yarra Valley

Vintage Conditions

A combination of relatively low yields, a warm summer and adequate spring rainfall led to the earliest vintage on record, with intake over by Easter. Natural acidity held up well, accompanying good varietal characters. The later maturing varieties including Merlot benefitted from the warm conditions, with some outstanding parcels produced.

Technical Analysis

Harvest Date March 2006

pH 3.44

Acidity 6.6g/L

Alcohol 14%

Residual Sugar g/L

Bottling Date July 2007

Peak Drinking 2008-2015

Coldstream Hills Awards

Grape Variety

Merlot

Maturation

15 months in French oak barriques - 30% new.

Colour

Dark medium red with a purple hue.

Nose

Ripe and concentrated dark plum and cherry fruit characters with black olive and cedary oak. Toasty charr oak is evident in the background adding further complexity.

Palate

Dark fruit characters of plum and cherry are evident with underlying briary notes and black olive. Cedary toasty oak adds further complexity without dominating. An excellent example of cool climate Merlot from the warm and dry 2006 vintage.