

# Coldstream Hills



## 2015 Yarra Valley Merlot

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 the Hazeldene Vineyard in the Upper Yarra, as well as the Coldstream Hills Amphitheatre Block, each parcel of fruit was handled separately using either open or static fermenters. The wine was then matured for sixteen months in new and seasoned oak prior to blending and bottling.

## Winemaker Comments Andrew Fleming

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**Vintage conditions:** The growing season began well with a mild and relatively dry Spring. Unlike 2014, fruit set was relatively normal resulting in average yields across most varieties. A notable cooler ripening period allowed fruit flavours to ripen steadily whilst retaining high levels of natural acidity. Fruit quality was excellent, with the wine produced promising finesse, complexity and cellaring potential.

### Technical Analysis

**Harvest Date** 18th March 2015

**pH** 3.48

**Acidity** 6.1g/L

**Alcohol.** 13.5%

**Residual Sugar** 0.3g/L

**Bottling Date** August 2016

**Peak Drinking** Now to 2023

**Maturation** Matured for 16 months in a mixture of new (29%) and seasoned French oak barrels.

### Colour

Medium cherry red with purple hues

### Bouquet

Attractive and vibrant, fragrant cherry notes dominate the bouquet with nuances of nutmeg, clove and black olive also evident. Subtle French oak adds complexity and is supported by hints of vanilla pod and cocoa.

### Palate

Medium bodied in style, the palate has classic hallmark Merlot suppleness and finishes with persistent chalky tannins. Ripe cherry, black olive and hints of Satsuma plum are complemented by an array of nutmeg, cinnamon and five-spice notes. French oak is evident in the background and is further enhanced by subtle nuances of vanilla pod and cocoa bean.