

Coldstream Hills



2012 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 Coldstream Hills' Briarston Vineyard, 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

Vintage conditions: The growing season was characterised by late spring rainfall followed by relatively warm and dry conditions. The vineyards responded accordingly with healthy canopies and vigour. Poor weather, however, at fruit set resulted in lower than average yields in the cooler parts of the Upper Yarra. In the vineyard, the onset of flavour developed at relatively low sugar levels resulting in an early start to harvest.

Technical Analysis

Harvest Date 20th and 26th March 2012

pH 3.35

Acidity 7.0g/L

Alcohol 13.0%

Residual Sugar 0.1g/L

Bottling Date 23rd August 2013

Peak Drinking Now to 2020

Maturation Matured for 16 months in a mixture of new (25%) and seasoned French oak barrels.

Colour Vibrant cherry red with crimson hue.

Nose Attractive characters of dark cherries dominate the bouquet with hints of plum, black olive, five-spice and anise. Cedary oak complements the wine harmoniously adding nuances of dark chocolate and vanilla.

Palate Medium bodied in style with balance, texture and length of flavour. Dark cherry and olive notes dominate, with cedary French oak adding further support and complexity. Secondary notes of dark chocolate and five-spice are evident and will continue to evolve as the wine matures. The palate is focussed and finishes with powdery and persistent tannins. A wine which will age well from the excellent 2012 vintage