

COONAWARRA
PENLEY ESTATE
AUSTRALIA



2006 PENLEY ESTATE GRYPHON MERLOT

WINEMAKER: Kym Tolley
REGION: Coonawarra, South Australia
VARIETALS: Merlot
MATURATION: A portion was barrel fermented, followed by maturation in French oak
ALCOHOL: 15% alc/vol

VINTAGE NOTES:

Budburst was early with dry, warm spring weather resulting in early flowering. Summer was dry, with warm to hot days and cool nights. Approximately half way through vintage, the weather changed to mild, warm days and cool nights slowing the ripening period. The fruit hung on the vine longer which intensified the flavors, tannins and colors of the red varieties.

WINEMAKING:

The fruit was picked at the stage of maximum flavor development. The wine was barrel fermented using French oak to provide complexity while maintaining Penley's hallmark integration. Circulation through traditional "heading down" tanks (open fermenters with submerged caps) maximized color, flavor and tannin extraction.

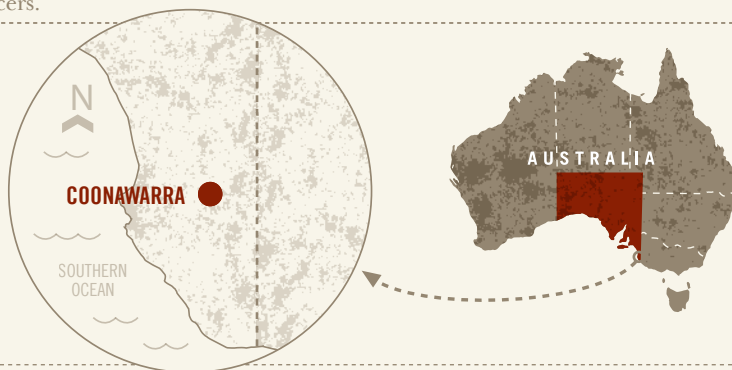
TASTING NOTES:

The 2006 Gryphon Merlot expresses distinctive Coonawarra fruit with its luscious aromas, rich palate and refined, silky tannin structure. This medium bodied Merlot is loaded with regional personality and amazing finesse. The bouquet is complex with spicy berry and floral notes integrated with hints of smoky vanilla oak. On the palate, rich red berry flavors are framed by velvety tannins. Drink now or cellar further to garner additional complexity.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 91 pts Stephen Tanzer's IWC, 90 pts Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, 88 pts James Halliday's Wine Companion

ABOUT PENLEY ESTATE:

Penley Estate is located in the heart of Australia's greatest Cabernet wine region: Coonawarra. Owner Kym Tolley, a direct descendant of the pioneering Penfold and Tolley winemaking families, has over 25 years winemaking experience, including tutelage under Grange creator Max Schubert. Continuing a family tradition that spans five generations, Tolley established Penley in 1988 on Coonawarra's famed terra rossa soils, with the aim of producing terroir-driven wines of true regional character. Penley is now regarded as one of the region's leading producers.



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