



THELEMA

MERLOT

1999

Viticultural Practices

Varietal	: Merlot, clone 192
Root stock	: R99
Soil type	: Hutton – decomposed granite
Age of vines	: Planted 1988
Plant density	: 3200 vines per hectare
Trellising	: Vertical hedge
Pruning	: 2-bud spurs every 12 cms
Yield	: Approximately 12 tons per ha
Irrigation	: Supplementary
Vintage	: Fairly late vintage, with good even ripening
Picking date	: 8 th – 15 th March
Grape sugar	: Average 24,5 degrees Balling
Acidity	: Average 6,5 g/l
pH at harvest	: 3,4

Winemaking Practices

Yeasts	: WE 372, Bordeaux red
Fermentation temp	: About 30 degrees C
Method	: De-stalk, crush, pumped into stainless steel tanks, inoculated with yeast, pumped over for 6 days & left for 5 days before pressing; racked to barrel after malo-lactic fermentation.
Wood maturation	: 20 months in 225ℓ French oak, 20% new wood

Wine details

Residual Sugar	: 1,3 g/l
pH	: 3,42
Total acid	: 5,2 g/l
Alcohol	: 14,4% by volume
Maturation Pot	: Should peak in about 2004

Winemaker's comments

"This wine has lovely berry fruit flavours and a fine woody structure. Can be enjoyed now, but will gain in complexity over the next few years."

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