

GREY SANDS

GREY SANDS MERLOT 2008

Appellation: Tamar River Valley; Tasmania

Winemaker: Fran Austin
Closure: Diam
Alcohol: 13.6%



Vineyard

Grey Sands is a small (3.5 Ha) family owned vineyard, established in 1989 by **Robert & Rita Richter** on the western edge of the Tamar Valley, 150m above sea level in Northern Tasmania. The Richters very deliberately chose the vineyard site because of its aspect, slope and low fertility soil. They have planted the vineyard to high density as is common in Bordeaux and Burgundy to take advantage of the low fertility soils. 8800 vines/Ha combined with hard pruning keeps the yield per vine down to less than 1 kg. They do not irrigate to encourage the vines to use the full soil profile, tapping down through a layer of hard-pan to the moisture retentive clay beneath.

Tasting Notes

Deep red in colour, this wine has rich aromas of ripe mulberries, plum tart and fine oak. The palate has layers of dark fruit, cocoa and spicy oak, finishing with mouth-coating tannins adding to the persistence of this powerful wine.

Reviews

A leafy entry, black brambly fruits, tomato juice aromas. Shows some warmth and ripeness, but it's light to medium bodied, with a touch of savoury development, more leafiness and a pleasing whip of clean acidity to finish. Lithe suede tannins give the washy intent of the wine some boundaries, as does a burr of cigar box oakiness. It's a cool, reserved feel, but there's punch of flavour and good carry here. Quiet wine; Merlot done well. **93 points, Mike Bennie, The Wine Front Online, 25 Feb 2013.**

Vintage

2008 was an exceptional vintage on par with 2000. A long warm autumn delivered very ripe fruit.

Wine Information

Clones: MV6,D2V5,F6V7,D5V12

Vines planted 1989-1992

Tight structure and fine tannins to allow the development necessary to evolve complexity not often seen in Australian Merlots. A great wine to pair with the richest of red meat dishes now, with a long cellaring life ahead.

