



MOUNT PLEASANT

Classic

2004 Merlot

Mount Pleasant is situated on the slopes of the Brokenback Range in the Hunter Valley, NSW. The estate was established in 1921 by legendary winemaker Maurice O'Shea who recognised the special characteristics and longevity of Hunter Valley table wines.

Vineyard Region Hunter Valley, NSW

Vintage Conditions Following the extreme drought conditions of 2003, the vineyards were in recovery mode for the 2004 season. Early budburst through a cool August and September set up a long growing and ripening season. Timely rainfall in October and November ensured the vines headed towards harvest with an ideal soil moisture profile. A warm December, and low rainfall, saw perfect conditions, with harvest proceeding until mid March. The resultant reds are characterised by cool climate flavours, good acidity and excellent structure.

Grape Variety Merlot

Vinification & Maturation The fruit for the Classic Merlot was harvested, crushed and cold soaked for 24 hours. The must was then inoculated with a selected yeast and ferment drained and returned twice daily. Midway through the ferment the cap was headed down to ensure maximum extraction of flavour and colour. The wine was pressed just before completion of fermentation so that the primary and malolactic fermentation could be finished in barrel. Both French and American oak was used for maturation to ensure maximum complexity.



Winemaker Phil Ryan's Notes:

Colour Deep, bright ruby red.

Aroma The lifted aromas are characterised by lovely plum and jam notes with leafy complexity and subtle vanillin oak.

Palate A medium bodied Merlot with generous fruit flavours of plum and black cherry, complemented by subtle coffee nuances. The palate is soft and refined with fine oak tannins adding further complexity.

Chef Peter Howard's Serving Suggestions

Smoked Chicken & Capsicum Spirali Pasta;
Chargrilled Duck Breast, Sour Cherry & Nutmeg Sauce

Wine Analysis **Alc/Vol:** 14.0% **pH:** 3.30 **TA:** 6.75g/L

Last Tasted March 2007

Peak Drinking Drinking beautifully now or can be cellared carefully until 2009.

PHIL RYAN
Mount Pleasant Chief Winemaker

www.mountpleasantwines.com.au

