



heemskerk

## Coal River Valley Chardonnay 2011

Heemskerk was an integral player in developing Tasmania's wine industry, long before the island reached its current state of popularity. Graham Wiltshire established the Heemskerk vineyard in 1975 and today the label looks a little further afield, making wines that reflect some of Tasmania's best vineyard sites.

Winemaker Anna Pooley is part of the next generation of young Tasmanian winemakers who have accepted the baton and continues to run full steam ahead on the international wine stage.

Fruit for the 2011 Heemskerk Chardonnay is sourced from Tolpuddle vineyard in the Coal River Valley. It's a north-east facing site with 19 year old vines on the upper slope of the vineyard. The fruit is hand picked before being whole bunch pressed, with fermentation taking place in 100% French oak barrels. The wine remained on lees in barrel with regular stirring to add complexity, palate weight and texture.

### Winemaker Comments Anna Pooley

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#### Vineyard Region

Tolpuddle Vineyard, Coal River Valley, Southern Tasmania.

#### Vintage Conditions

Although it was a tough vintage on the 'mainland' of Australia, once again Tasmania experienced a good to very good vintage. High winter and spring rainfall and cooler than average summer temperatures led to slow but even ripening and a return to more 'average' conditions. Overall temperatures across the state were in line with the long term averages. The resultant fruit at picking time had incredibly intense structure, high but soft acid and superior fruit flavour at lower than average Baumes.

#### Technical Analysis

##### Harvest Date

pH 3.22

Acidity 7.1g/L

Alcohol 12.5%

Residual Sugar 1.3g/L

##### Bottling Date

**Peak Drinking** It will open up gracefully over the next 10+ years.

#### Grape Variety

Chardonnay

#### Maturation

Matured in a mixture of old and new French oak barriques and puncheons ('large oak casks').

#### Colour

Pale straw with a vibrant green hue.

#### Nose

Vivid aromas of wet limestone, pink grapefruit and white blossom followed ever so delicately by hazelnut kernel.

#### Palate

Very much in its youth but showing incredible potential this wine flamboyantly expresses its terroir. On initial tasting the palate is over-run by a mineral, wet slate flavour and texture (typical of the Coal River Valley region) which opens up to reveal fleshy stonefruit characters of nectarine and white peach. Showing no sign of its 100% natural malolactic fermentation the wine has extensive purity, drive and length.