PENLEY ESTATE

2006 PHOENIX CABERNET SAUVIGNON - TASTING NOTES

Release: December 2007
Variety: Cabernet Sauvignon
Area: Coonawarra
Analysis: 15% Alcohol, 5.8 g/l total acid, 3.57 pH
Country: Australia

Objective: To create a clearly approachable and drinkable young red wine showing the unique characteristics of Coonawarra.

Phoenix History: The Phoenix name recognises the first winemaking company purchased by Douglas Austral Tolley , purchased in 1888. This company began in 1858, as "The Phoenix Winemaking and Distilling Company", in Stepney, South Australia. In 1888 this was changed to "Tolley Scott Tolley" (T.S.T.) and remained with the family till 1960. D.A Tolley's great grandson, Kym Tolley, has continued the unbroken family winemaking tradition, establishing Penley Estate in 1988.

Coonawarra Connection: The value and quality of Coonawarra was first recognised by D. A. Tolley who supplied oak barrels and equipment to the district as early as 1908, gaining access to the wines of Coonawarra. To quote from early Tolley records: "The Coonawarra wines were distinctly different from Hope Valley (Tolley home vineyard site near Adelaide). They were dark purple in colour and they had characteristic aroma whilst fermenting." Nothing has changed!

Vintage Comment: Budburst was early and dry, warm spring weather followed which resulted in early flowering. Summer was dry with warm to hot days and cool nights. About half way through the vintage the weather changed to more mild to warm days and cool nights. This weather pattern slowed the ripening of the grapes and enabled us to hang the fruit on the vine longer which intensified the flavours, tannins and colours of our red varieties.

The Wine: The colour is bright crimson with hints of dark purple due to its oak maturation and specific handling techniques. The fragrant aroma consists of ripe and rich fruit with complex spice and strong varietal character typical of the 2006 Coonawarra vintage. The aromas are of blackberry and cassis. Distinct blackberry/ blackcurrant (Cassis) flavours, characteristic of a good Coonawarra cabernet sauvignon. The flavour is of young ripe fruits with silky grape tannin and elegant complex cedar oak ,so typical of the Penley Style. A wine that is closer to full bodied with more grape and oak tannins but that still maintains beautiful balance.

Maturation: The oak is minimal but discernible. The small amount of wood tannin and fruit flavours will aid maturation if required. Best enjoyed for next 1 to 5 years. Premium wine must have the ability for some bottle age, since there is sometimes 1 to 2 years between bottling and actual drinking.

Penley Style: The balance is a key feature in all Penley wines. This will ensure the wines will mature successfully in the bottle. This wine shows dominance of spicy cabernet fruit, a dense ripeness with hints of smoky oak and grape tannin. A wine made to enjoy while the young, ripe but elegant, distinct Coonawarra cabernet sauvignon characters are evident. Barrel fermentation in 25% new French oak provided a balanced integration of oak and fruit. To maintain the style, the amount of time in oak each year will vary with the vintage.

Awards: Awards are now generally given to wines already bottled and labelled. Hence any awards are more likely in the year of sale.

Gold		2008 LA International Wine Competition
Gold		2008 New Zealand Wine Competition
Silver		2008 International Wine Challenge
Silver		2008 Dallas Morning News Wine Competition
Silver	Class 7	2008 Sydney Royal Wine Show
Bronze		2008 Royal Adelaide Wine Show
Bronze		2008 Cool climate Wine Show
Bronze		2008 Hobart Wine Show
Bronze		2008 Cairns Wine Show
Bronze		2008 San Francisco Wine Competition
Bronze	Class 11	2007 Limestone Coast Wine Show
Bronze	Class 16	2007 Royal Adelaide Wine Show
Bronze	Class 4010	2007 Cool Climate Wine Show
Bronze	Class B	2007 Hobart Wine Show
Bronze		2008 San Diego International Wine Competition
Bronze		2008 Perth Royal Wine Show
Bronze		2008 Qld Royal Wine Show
Commended		2008 Decanter World Wine Awards
94 Points		Penguin Wine Guide 2008
93 Points		Nick Stock, WBM Magazine June 2008
91 Points		Wine Enthusiast Dec 2008
91 Points		Robert Parker Jr, The Wine Advocate September 2008
90 Points		Harvey Steiman's Wine Spectator September 2008
90 Points		Tanzers International Wine Cellar

Total awards since first release (1995):
13 Trophies including Boutique Wine Of The Year for 2000 vintage, Best Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 Sydney Royal Wine Show, 1 Trophy nomination, 16 Gold, 32 Silver, 64 Bronze, 3 Commendations, 15 x 90+ points.