



The Wine Thief Series

SACRED HILL

HAWKES BAY

MERLOT

2004

Tasting Notes

Rich scented aroma with black plum and savoury earthy nuances. Beautifully rich and supple palate with black fruits, hints of new leather, slightly gamey and savoury. Very complex and mouth filling with finely structured tannins.

Vintage Summary

An exceptional vintage for Hawkes Bay. A warm consistent summer was followed by a warm and dry autumn. Outstanding conditions prevailed for making premium wines.

Vinification

Traditional Bordeaux style ferment with regular aerative pump overs. Extended time on skins before pressing. Elevage in French oak for 16 months.

Viticultural Detail

Low yielding vines were crop and shoot thinned before hand harvesting at optimum ripeness.

<i>Winemaker</i>	Tony Bish	<i>Variety</i>	Merlot
<i>Region</i>	Hawkes Bay	<i>Style</i>	Full bodied dry red wine
<i>Appearance</i>	Deep inky red	<i>Cellaring</i>	5 to 8 years
<i>Serve</i>	Ambient	<i>Alcohol</i>	14.0%
<i>RS</i>	<2.0 g/L	<i>TA</i>	6.1 g/L
<i>pH</i>	3.7	<i>Packaging</i>	6 x 750ml bottles

The 'Wine Thief' is a traditional winemaker's tool used to extract sample wines for tasting. Usually made from glass, the thief is the winemakers' best friend as they look for special wines. The Wine Thief Series has been developed to show the passion and pursuit of excellence that these hand selected wines represent.

