



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Henry's Seven 2014

Grape Variety

60% shiraz, 24% grenache, 8% mataro and 8% viognier grapes grown in the Barossa (Eden Valley and Barossa Valley).

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 20 March-7 May | Alcohol: 14% | pH: 3.57 | Acidity: 6.2g/L

Maturation

Viognier co-fermented with shiraz; grenache and mataro fermented separately. Matured in seasoned French hogsheads for 10 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

The shiraz, grenache, mataro, viognier blend is a tribute to Henry Evans who planted the first vineyard of seven acres at Keyneton in 1853. He quickly developed a reputation for producing the best wines in the southern colony. Following Henry's death in 1868, his widow Sarah exercised her temperance convictions by closing the winery and uprooting all the winegrapes. This blend highlights the historical introduction of southern French and Spanish varieties to South Australia in those early pioneering days and reflects the history, religion and culture of the Barossa.

Vintage Description

The 2014 vintage began with the winery coming alive to the fragrant aromas of fermentation. But what a year we had! In 2014, the moon cycles put Easter quite late in the season, so the expectation of a late harvest prevailed...until South Australia experienced its record number of heat days over 40C in January, culminating in the worst bushfire in Eden Valley in living memory. This taste of hell ended in the wettest February in 44 years - all in 48 hours, when we received between 115 and 150mm of rain. Fortunately, Eden Valley and the Adelaide Hills were still in veraison, which allowed the quenching rain to rebalance the fruit, particularly in the older dry-grown vineyards. The yields appeared depressingly minuscule, due to a severe black frost in spring and cold windy weather during flowering in early December. Early picks of semillon and shiraz after the heat wave were in response to vine stress. The change to mild autumnal weather in late February after the rains allowed for a focus on other early vintage varieties, riesling in Eden Valley and pinot noir at Lenswood. Mild weather with cold dewy mornings and windy days prevailed. Disease pressure increased as March became colder and wetter, which seemed to change to a winter pattern after the solstice. It was indeed a late vintage and also resulted in one of our longest vintages. The picking of Eden Valley cabernet and Adelaide Hills merlot brought the season to a close at the beginning of May, where skilled vineyard teams played a critical role by hand selecting and picking the best quality fruit during the onset of rain and cold wintery weather.

Wine Description

Deep ruby with purple hues. Pronounced aromas of ripe raspberry, plum, blackberry, with hints of white flowers and lavender, complimented by savoury nuances of black pepper, bay leaf and charcuterie. The palate displays focused raspberry and dark plum fruits, with lively acidity and beautifully balanced fine, soft tannins providing texture, for a long, structured finish.

Reviewed August 2015



Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
10+ years (from vintage).

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