



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Mount Edelstone 2014

Grape Variety

100% 102 year-old single-vineyard shiraz grapes grown organically and biodynamically in the Eden Valley wine region.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 2-9 April | *Alcohol:* 14.5% | *pH:* 3.46 | *Acidity:* 5.98g/L

Maturation

Matured in 92% French and 8% American (28% new, 72% seasoned) hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

The Mount Edelstone vineyard, situated in the Eden Valley, was planted in 1912 by Ronald Angas, a descendant of George Fife Angas, who founded South Australia. Unusual for its time, it was planted solely to shiraz. The ancient 500-million-year-old soils on the vineyard are deep red-brown clay-loam to clay, resulting in low yields from over 100 year-old dry-grown ungrafted centenarian vines. First bottled as a single-vineyard wine in 1952, it became recognised as one of Australia's greatest shiraz wines.

Vintage Description

The 2014 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 ended in the wettest February in 44 years, with between 115 and 150mm of rain, all in 48 hours. 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 equinox. It was indeed a late vintage and also resulted in one of the longest. The picking of Eden Valley cabernet and Lenswood 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. In summary, a challenging season with excellent quality but very low yields.

Wine Description

Deep crimson with deep purple hues. Pure and complex, with lifted aromatics of violets, dark plums, fresh blackberries and blueberries, and the unmistakable Mount Edelstone signature aromas of crushed sage and cracked black pepper. The palate shows incredible purity and balance, with rich plum and blackberry fruit flavours, rosehip florals and savoury spice notes, finishing long with lingering plum skin and sage, and layers of fine, silky tannins.



Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
25+ years (from vintage).

Reviewed May 2016