



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon 2008

Grape Variety

89% cabernet sauvignon, 6% merlot and 5% cabernet franc grown on the Henschke Eden Valley vineyard.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 31 March-1 April | Alcohol: 13.5% | pH: 3.55 | Acidity: 6.7g/L

Maturation

Matured in 89% new and 11% seasoned French hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

This wine carries the name of Stephen's father, Cyril Henschke (1924-1979), as a tribute to one of Australia's outstanding winemaking pioneers, renowned for the production of varietal table wines with the accent on quality and flavour. Cyril planted cabernet sauvignon at Henschke's Eden Valley vineyard in the 1960s.

Vintage Description

The 2008 vintage in Eden Valley was preceded by an average rainfall and a mild and unusually frost-free spring with regular rainfall periods. Fine flowering weather meant good set despite the expectation that the previous drought year of 2007 would affect yields. The vines also showed surprisingly vigorous growth. A dry and hotter than average early summer caused smaller berry and bunch size. Although temperatures climbed to over 40C around New Year and in mid-February, the weather from mid-January through February was the coolest for 30 years, allowing amazing development of fruit colour, flavour and maturity. In early March South Australia suffered an unprecedented record heat wave of 15 days over 35C. The unexpected searing heat seemed never-ending and resulted in stressed vines, significant leaf drop, escalating sugar levels in the fruit and significant shrivel. A cool change followed, which brought relief. Selective early morning handpicking, leaving shrivelled fruit on the vines, gave the best quality, resulting in some amazing intensely coloured and flavoured reds, in particular shiraz.

Wine Description

Deep crimson red with violet hues. Complex aromas of sweet, ripe dark cassis, plum and violet are supported by cedar, tar and exotic spice nuances. The rich, lush palate is textural and savoury with flavours of plum and blackcurrant; a beautiful palate structure and tannin balance with a long, fine finish.

Reviewed September 2011



Cellaring Potential

Great vintage,
15+ years (from vintage).