



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Tappa Pass Shiraz 2012

Grape Variety

100% old-vine shiraz grown in the Barossa (Eden Valley and Barossa Valley).

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 29 February-4 April | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.57 | Acidity: 6.9g/L

Maturation

Matured in 53% new and 47% seasoned French hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

The Barossa has a core of traditional growers of Lutheran descent dating back five generations, staunchly continuing the traditions of their forebears. Occasionally, one or two parcels of fruit of overwhelming quality come over the weighbridge; this is one such example. The 50-year-old, low-yielding vines are growing in low-fertility Neoproterozoic soils more than 542 million years old, ranging from terra rossa to red-brown earths. The fully ripe black shiraz grapes were sourced from three grower vineyards in Tappa Pass, Light Pass and Eden Valley and were vinified in traditional open-top fermenters.

Vintage Description

The La Niña pattern weakened during the lead-up to the 2012 vintage, resulting in below average winter and spring rainfall. July was the driest since the serious drought of 2003. Spring was mild with few frost events; however, flowering and fruit set were affected by wet drizzly weather in mid to late November, leading to only average yields. Summer was also surprisingly mild with below average temperatures from southerlies off the ocean in January and only two short heat events, at New Year and at the end of February. This provided for slow ripening which allowed for intense fruit flavours, high colour figures, high acidity and mature tannins. Rainfall leading up to vintage was above average, with the heaviest rainfall events in late January and late February, which tied in well with the natural physiology of the dry-grown vines; ie, keeping leaves active at veraison and ripening. Temperatures were mild during harvest through March, warming to an Indian summer in April, allowing for a long window of picking and amazing maturities with the red varieties.

Standout varieties were riesling, showing delightful aromatics, purity, intensity, excellent acidity and length of flavour; and shiraz, showing great purity and spice, colour, intensity and strikingly mature tannins. Yields were average with exceptional overall quality.

Wine Description

Very deep crimson in colour. Complex and pronounced aromas of blackberry, blueberry, anise and black pepper complemented by savoury hints of dried herbs, vanilla and cedar. Sweet layers of blue fruits on the palate are only the beginning of the journey, with a soft and textural mid-palate beautifully balanced by complexity and concentration, before finishing with fine-grained, elegant tannins.

Reviewed March 2014



Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage,
25+ years (from vintage).

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