



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Louis Semillon 2003

Grape Variety

100% semillon grown in Eden Valley.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 25 March-9 April | Alcohol: 13% | pH: 3.26 | Acidity: 5.8g/L

Maturation

15% aged for 9 months in seasoned 225L French barriques while the remaining 85% is aged in tank on lees.

Background

A tribute to Louis Edmund Henschke (1919-1990), the fourth-generation grower of the Hill of Grace vineyard. His expertise as a vigneron has resulted in a legacy in the form of the famous vineyard being maintained using long-term organic principles. The semillon is a reserve selection from 50-year-old vines, grown in the Henschke vineyard at Eden Valley.

Vintage Description

After one of the worst droughts in history the soil moisture profile and dams were lower than at the start of winter. Spring was frosty and windy but not overly wet. The frosts in October were bad news for many, although the rains were at least strategic, which resulted in better fruit set than 2002. This season has often been likened to 1983, which is remembered more for the horrors of Ash Wednesday and the Barossa flood than the drought. The vines looked surprisingly good for the dry season; however, the crops were light and the ancient dry-grown vines groaned as they searched deep with their old gnarled roots for any faint sniff of moisture. Then just as the vines were succumbing to the hot, dry conditions, the heavens opened. Not just a sprinkle, but serious rain of around 75mm over 24 hours, and the country turned green overnight. Timing of the harvest was similar to 2001, due to the heat and lack of subsoil moisture. Another vintage for the record books!

Wine Description

Deep gold in colour. Complex aromas of honey on toast, lemon curd and lemongrass, with floral notes of clover blossom and hints of lanolin and vanilla. The rich palate is full and round, sweetly fruited with soft, creamy vanilla nuances and balanced by finely poised acidity for a long, fine finish.

Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage, 20+ years (from vintage).

Reviewed

July 2017

