



HENSCHKE

150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING

2017 CROFT CHARDONNAY

GRAPE VARIETY

100% chardonnay grown on the Henschke Lenswood Vineyard in the Adelaide Hills.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Harvest Date: 3 - 7 April | Alcohol: 12.5% | pH: 3.13 | Acidity: 6.73/L

MATURATION

Matured in 14% new and 86% seasoned French barriques for 10 months prior to blending and bottling.

WINE DESCRIPTION

Pale gold in colour. Seductive aromas of pear skin, grapefruit, white stone-fruit, citrus blossom and white flowers are complemented by hints of apple, lemon curd, clove spice and toasted almonds. Intense and focussed, the palate shows layer upon layer of pear and white peach, tightly wound by a deliciously creamy texture, and perfectly balanced with nectarine acidity and subtle oak nuances, for a powerful yet elegantly restrained, lingering finish.

BACKGROUND

Fifth-generation winemaker Stephen Henschke and his wife Prue purchased the Lenswood property in the Adelaide Hills in 1981. At 550m, the Lenswood vineyards offer not only magnificent views over the traditional vine country but also higher rainfall and humidity at the right time of the year, cooler temperatures to retain high natural acidity, and still enough sunshine to fully ripen the grapes. The chardonnay vineyard, which consists of seven clones, has taken its name from Frederick Croft, an orchardist who took up a neighbouring property in 1938.

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

Extremely heavy winter rainfall and ferocious spring winds and hail set up one of the most challenging vintages we have ever experienced at Lenswood. Flowering was late, occurring in December rather than November, in rare calm and sunny weather which set us up for good yields. The conditions post-Christmas were characterised by elevated evening temperatures, heavy rain every four days, foggy mornings and low day time temperatures. Harvest started in March; three weeks later than usual. By Easter, all Adelaide Hills whites and our pinot noir were safely in the winery, and in excellent condition despite 760mm falling during the growing season. This was a vintage saved in the vineyard by the outstanding work of the Adelaide Hills viticultural team under extremely trying conditions, with results that exceeded expectations. The Lenswood vineyard continues to show enormous resilience, and the soil health no doubt plays an important role in the beautiful wines created in 2017.



CELLARING POTENTIAL

Excellent vintage,
15+ years (from vintage).

REVIEWED November 2018