



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Louis Semillon 2012

Grape Variety

100% semillon grown in Eden Valley.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 27 February-7 March | Alcohol: 11.5% | pH: 3.07 | Acidity: 6.6g/L

Maturation

7% aged on lees for 10 months in seasoned 225L French barriques. Remainder aged in tank to preserve the delicate fruit flavours.

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

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

Pale yellow with green hues. Sweet, fragrant aromas of citrus and clover blossom, citrus zest, lemon, stone-fruits and granny smith apples. The palate is vibrant and juicy with lime zest, melon and white nectarine flavours; beautiful complexity and layers of flavour and texture, with crisp acidity and a long finish.



Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage,
15+ years (from vintage).

Reviewed March 2013