



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Innes Vineyard Pinot Gris 2014

Grape Variety

100% pinot gris grown by David and Annette Innes at Littlehampton in the Adelaide Hills.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 26 February | Alcohol: 13.5% | pH: 3.35 | Acidity: 5.6g/L

Maturation

Fermented in tank and held on lees for 6 months with occasional stirring to build complexity.

Background

The Adelaide Hills has an altitude ranging from 400-600m and a rainfall of around 700-1000mm. Soils consist of sandy loam overlying weathered shale and clay, which provide excellent conditions for viticulture. Littlehampton lies on the eastern side of the Adelaide Hills and has a unique aspect for superlative pinot gris. Viticulture was first established in the Adelaide Hills in 1839 by John Barton Hack near Mount Barker, just 5km from Littlehampton. Pinot gris, called tokay d'Alsace in France, grauburgunder in Germany and pinot grigio in Italy, has its origins in France and has become a highly regarded variety around the world.

Vintage Description

The 2014 vintage began with the winery coming alive to the fragrant aromas of fermentation. But what a year we've had! This year, the moon cycles put Easter quite late in the season, so the expectation of a late harvest prevailed...until South Australia experienced its record number of heat days over 40C in January, culminating in the worst bushfire in Eden Valley in living memory. This taste of hell ended in the wettest February in 44 years - all in 48 hours, when we received between 115 and 150mm of rain. Fortunately, Eden Valley and the Adelaide Hills were still in veraison, which allowed the quenching rain to rebalance the fruit, particularly in the older dry-grown vineyards. The yields appeared depressingly minuscule, due to a severe black frost in spring and cold windy weather during flowering in early December. Early picks of semillon and shiraz after the heat wave were in response to vine stress. The change to mild autumnal weather in late February after the rains allowed for a focus on other early vintage varieties, riesling in Eden Valley and pinot noir at Lenswood. Mild weather with cold dewy mornings and windy days prevailed. Disease pressure increased as March became colder and wetter, which seemed to change to a winter pattern after the solstice. It was indeed a late vintage and also resulted in one of our longest vintages. The picking of Eden Valley cabernet and Lenswood merlot brought the season to a close at the beginning of May, where skilled vineyard teams played a critical role by hand selecting and picking the best quality fruit during the onset of rain and cold wintery weather. In summary, a challenging season with good quality but very low yields.

Wine Description

Pale straw with lime hues. Intense aromas of ripe stone-fruits, pear skin and gooseberry with underlying nuances of dried herbs and flinty notes. The palate is rich with a powerful core of sweet stone-fruit, gooseberry and clove spice flavours, with complex yet elegant palate weight and texture, and fine, focused acidity for a beautifully long finish.

Reviewed December 2014



Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
10+ years (from vintage).

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