



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon 2012

Grape Variety

78% cabernet sauvignon, 15% cabernet franc and 7% merlot grown organically and biodynamically on the Henschke Eden Valley vineyard.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 19 March-4 April | *Alcohol:* 14% | *pH:* 3.53 | *Acidity:* 7.3g/L

Maturation

Matured in 38% new and 62% seasoned French oak hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

This wine carries the name of Stephen's father, Cyril Henschke (1924-1979), as a tribute to one of Australia's outstanding winemaking pioneers, renowned for old-vine single-vineyard and quality varietal table wines. Cyril planted cabernet sauvignon at Henschke's Eden Valley vineyard in the 1960s.

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.

Cabernet was a standout variety showing great purity and spice, colour, intensity and strikingly mature tannins. Yields were average with exceptional overall quality.

Wine Description

Deep crimson with red hues. Concentrated and complex aromas of cassis, black and red currants, blackberry leaf and violets with underlying savoury nuances of crushed dried herbs, cigar box, beef stock and anise spice, all supported by dark cedary French oak. A flood of rich blackberry and bright red currants greet the palate, which is precisely defined by purity of acidity, an elegant structure and layers of long, silky fine-grained tannins that provide great persistence.

Reviewed May 2016



Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage,
25+ years (from vintage).