



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Julius Riesling 2014

Grape Variety

100% riesling grown in Eden Valley.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 6-21 March | Alcohol: 11.5% | pH: 3.0 | Acidity: 7.4g/L

Maturation

Fermented in tank and bottled post-vintage to preserve the delicate aromatic fruit characters.

Background

Cyril Henschke developed the Henschke reputation for premium riesling wines as early as the 1950s from the vineyard areas of Eden Valley, Keyneton and Springton in the Eden Valley wine region. This region provides ideal ripening conditions for the riesling grape and has a unique track record of exceptional ageing potential for the variety. The Eden Valley riesling vineyard is planted on sandy loam over gravel and bedrock with patches of clay. The wine is named after ancestor Julius Henschke, a highly acclaimed artist and sculptor.

Vintage Description

The 2014 moon cycles put Easter quite late in the season and 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 ended in the wettest February in 44 years, with between 115 and 150mm of rain, all in 48 hours. 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 equinox. It was indeed a late vintage and also resulted in one of the longest. 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 excellent quality but very low yields.

Wine Description

Pale straw with lime green hues. Fragrant, yet restrained aromas of lemon and lime zest, citrus blossom and kaffir lime leaf with underlying nuances of green peppercorn, white flower florals and a hint of anise. The tightly wound palate leads with intense zesty citrus flavours that are followed by layers of crisp acidity and minerality for a long, fine and beautifully balanced finish.

Reviewed August 2014



Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
20+ years (from vintage).