



# HENSCHKE

*Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards*

## Mount Edelstone 2002

### Grape Variety

100% 90-year-old single-vineyard shiraz grapes grown in the Eden Valley wine region.

### Technical Details

Harvest Date: 10-24 March | Alcohol: 15% | pH: 3.54 | Acidity: 6.2g/L

### Maturation

Matured in 60% French and 40% American (62% new, 38% seasoned) hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

### Background

The Mount Edelstone vineyard, situated in the Eden Valley, was planted in 1912 by Ronald Angas, a descendant of George Fife Angas, who founded South Australia. Unusual for its time, it was planted solely to shiraz. The ancient 500-million-year-old soils on the vineyard are deep red-brown clay-loam to clay, resulting in low yields from the nearly 90-year-old dry-grown ungrafted Centenarian vines. First bottled as a single-vineyard wine in 1952, it became recognised as one of Australia's greatest shiraz wines.

### Vintage Description

The 2002 vintage goes down as being the coolest, windiest 'non-summer' on record, following on from our hottest summer on record in 2001. It was preceded by a wet winter and a spring that was cold, wet and windy - like winter really. The drizzly cold weather affected the flowering and caused poor fruit set, commonly known as 'hen and chicken', leading to very little fruit. In particular riesling and shiraz, Eden Valley signature varieties, were the worst affected by crop reductions, leaving less than 20% in some varieties. In addition, the season was 2-3 weeks late due to the unseasonable cold weather. With the smaller crop level, the balance of sugar, flavour and natural acidity in the fruit were excellent. Despite the pitiful crop 2002 was one of our most exceptional vintages ever, helped by a warm, dry Indian summer autumn period, providing sensational colours, flavours and ageing potential.

### Wine Description

Very deep crimson in colour. Sweet ripe intense spiced plum, blackberry and blueberry with anise and tar supported by sweet cedar and bacon oak characters. The palate is rich, concentrated and complex with excellent depth and structure. Layered with textured black fruits and chunky velvety tannins with a long intense finish.



### Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage,  
25+ years (from vintage).

Reviewed March 2005