



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Joseph Hill Gewürztraminer 2010

Grape Variety

100% gewürztraminer grown in Henschke's Eden Valley vineyard.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 18th February | Alcohol: 12.5% | pH: 3.18 | Acidity: 6.83g/L

Maturation

Fermented in tank and bottled post-vintage (no oak or tank maturation) to preserve the wine's fruit characters.

Background

The traminer grape originated in the Tramin area of the north-east of Italy. This variety has been grown for centuries in French Alsace and Germany. The German prefix *gewürz*, meaning spicy, is used when the wine exhibits an aromatic spicy character. The altitude, cool climate and deep loam soils of Eden Valley provide excellent conditions for this variety. The gewürztraminer vineyard is planted on well-drained deep sandy loam and silt and is named after Joseph Hill Thyer who pioneered the first vines on this property in the early 1900s.

Vintage Description

The 2010 growing season was preceded by above average winter rainfall that built up moisture in the soil profile and provided water for the dams. Spring was mild with little frost damage and gave us an even budburst. The weather remained cold and wet through spring which held back growth until a two-week high 30s heat wave in November affected flowering and fruit set. Spring rains continued into early summer right through until mid-December, making it the wettest year since 2005. The vines responded to the heat and grew vigorously until early January, developing lush canopies, but bunch development suffered as a result.

A roller-coaster-ride of heat spikes and cool changes continued through a warm summer with occasional thunderstorms. The vines continued to look very healthy and went through veraison a week earlier than in 2009. Lower yields coupled with the mild ripening period resulted in incredibly concentrated fruit. Vintage began a week earlier than last year, on February 8, and was in full swing by mid-February. The white vintage was all but finished a month later, with no signs of sunburn or drought-affected berries. The red harvest continued with deeply coloured, well-balanced grapes being picked during superb mild, dry conditions through to the third week of April. The signature varieties of Eden Valley, riesling and shiraz, once again produced exceptional quality with great acid balance.

Wine Description

Pale green-gold in colour. Delicate aromas of lychees, musk and rose-petal florals. The sweet, fruity palate is fleshy and textured with an elegant balance, fine acidity and a long, crisp finish.

Reviewed March 2011



Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage,
20+ years