



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

The Rose Grower Nebbiolo 2012

Grape Variety

89% nebbiolo and 11% barbera grown organically and biodynamically on the Henschke Eden Valley vineyard.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 20 April | *Alcohol:* 13% | *pH:* 3.7 | *Acidity:* 6.59g/L

Maturation

Nebbiolo traditionally co-fermented with barbera for added complexity; matured in seasoned French hogsheads for 12 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

The nebbiolo grape originated in the Piedmont region of north-west Italy and is best known as the variety of Barolo and Barbaresco. It is believed that the name nebbiolo is derived from the Italian word *nebbia*, meaning fog. Henschke's nebbiolo vines have been planted on rocky soils on an elevated foggy north facing slope at the source of the North Para River at the top of the range overlooking the village of Eden Valley, and named after the pioneering Roesler family, who managed the property as a dairy for generations. Roesler is an occupational name for rose grower.

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

Wine Description

Brick red with ruby hues. Fragrant aromas of cherry stone, persimmon skin and rosehip supported by savoury notes of crushed graphite, dried sage and thyme. The delicate palate is restrained and tightly wound, with concentrated berry skin and red cherry flavours, vibrant acidity that builds complex intensity on the finish and fine, savoury tannins that provide focus and length.

Reviewed January 2015

Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
15+ years (from vintage).

