



# HENSCHKE

*Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards*

## Croft Chardonnay 2007

### Grape Variety

100% chardonnay grapes grown on Stephen and Prue Henschke's Lenswood vineyard in the Adelaide Hills.

### Technical Details

*Harvest Date:* 15-20 March | *Alcohol:* 13% | *pH:* 3.25 | *Acidity:* 7.2g/L

### Maturation

Aged in 40% new, 60% one-year-old French barriques and lees stirred for 6 months.

### Background

Stephen and Prue Henschke pioneered Lenswood as a vineyard site in the Adelaide Hills in 1981. At 550m, the Lenswood vineyards offer not only beautiful views over the traditional vine country but also higher rainfall and humidity at the right time of the year, cooler temperatures to retain high natural acidity, and still enough sunshine to fully ripen the grapes. The chardonnay vineyard, which consists of five selected clones, has taken its name from Frederick Croft, an orchardist who took up a neighbouring property in 1938.

### Vintage Description

The 2007 vintage shaped up to be another high quality year but with significantly reduced yields in Eden Valley and average yields in the Adelaide Hills. The highly publicised drought of 2006 has been reported as the worst ever. Certainly the rainfall at Eden Valley for the three months of winter at only 90mm compared to the average of 200mm was one of our driest. Despite an early winter break, rainfall during winter and spring was the worst for years in the lead-up to flowering. There was significant spring frost damage in Eden Valley, with a yield loss of 20-25%, compounded by the drought and lack of subsoil moisture with overall losses of up to 50% expected. Brief heat waves occurred during January; otherwise it was mild and dry. At the end of January a tropical air mass connected with a cold front to bring good rains to the agricultural areas of South Australia, with flooding up north.

### Wine Description

Bright gold-green in colour. Sweet, lifted ripe and complex with pear drop, peach, clove, spice, cashew nut and hints of grapefruit and lemon. A rich full complex concentrated and intense palate with layers of flavours, mineral and apricot kernel, good acidity and texture with excellent depth and length.

Reviewed March 2008.

### Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,  
10+ years.

