



# HENSCHKE

OVER 150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING



## 2016 THE WHEELWRIGHT SHIRAZ

### GRAPE VARIETY

100% shiraz grown on the Henschke Eden Valley vineyard.

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Harvest Date: 24 - 30 March | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.53 | Acidity: 6.03g/L

### MATURATION

Matured in 10% new and 90% seasoned (95% French, 5% American) oak hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

### WINE DESCRIPTION

Deep purple with violet hues. Alluring aromas of mulberry, blue and black berries, red plum and fresh vanilla bean are carried by nuances of crushed lavender, flowering herbs, bay leaf and black pepper. The palate is wonderfully structured, revealing intense flavours of red berry fruits, dark plum and Swiss chocolate, and finishing rich and textured, with fine-grained tannins and extraordinary length.

### BACKGROUND

The Wheelwright pays tribute to the founding father of the Henschke winery and vineyards, winemaker Johann Christian Henschke. He was among the first generation of the early Barossa German pioneers of South Australia, and established the family winery in 1868. Johann Christian arrived as a skilled stonemason and wheelwright and planted his first vineyards in the high country of the picturesque Eden Valley. This wine is produced from Old-Vine shiraz planted in 1968, a century later, by fourth-generation Cyril Henschke. Decanting is recommended before serving. The inaugural release, the 2015 vintage, marked 150 years of Henschke family winemaking.

### VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

The 2016 vintage began with well below-average winter rainfall, followed by a warm and dry spring, which enhanced flowering and set to give average to above-average yield potential. Low disease pressure was maintained by one of the hottest Decembers on record, though temperatures cooled down in the New Year and rainfall around veraison in late January brought relief to the dry-grown, old-vine Eden Valley vineyards. This was followed by further rainfall in early March which eased the stress on all varieties. The fruit matured with an earlier harvest, as predicted due to an early Easter. Open, light and airy vine canopies allowed for good flavour, sugar and colour and mature tannins to develop at harvest, which was overall characterised by average yields but very high quality.

### ACCOLADES

2019 Royal Adelaide Wine Show - Silver Medal  
2019 Barossa Wine Show - Silver Medal

### CELLARING POTENTIAL

Exceptional vintage,  
30+ years (from vintage).

REVIEWED November 2018