



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Keyneton Euphonium 2011

Grape Variety

54% shiraz and 46% cabernet sauvignon grown in the Barossa (Eden Valley and Barossa Valley).

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 28 March-28 April | Alcohol: 14% | pH: 3.43 | Acidity: 6.59g/L

Maturation

Matured in new and seasoned oak hogsheads for 16 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

The Barossa hills village of Keyneton, pioneered by pastoralist Joseph Keynes in 1842, was a musical and cultural focus for the early settlers, and was home to the Henschke Family Brass Band and the Henschke winery. The Henschke Family Band was founded in 1888 by Paul Gotthard Henschke and later led by third-generation Paul Alfred Henschke, and featured wonderful wind instruments such as a B flat euphonium, cornet and E flat clarinet. The B flat euphonium, a large brass wind instrument, was made by the famous Zimmermann factory in Leipzig, Germany, in the late 19th century. The instruments were imported by musical entrepreneur, Carl Engel of Adelaide in the late 1900s and have been lovingly restored and remain in the Henschke family.

Vintage Description

The lead-up to the 2011 vintage was very different to past seasons. A strong La Niña event dominated the weather pattern, bringing a wetter than average winter and the coldest for 13 years. The drought was broken across the country with floods in the eastern states and a return to high river levels and full dams. The wettest spring was recorded, with the coldest average spring temperatures since 2005. Vine growth was extremely vigorous due to high soil moisture levels and regular thunderstorm activity. The wettest December day ever was recorded on December 7. Summer was generally mild, with one rainfall event mid-January and three days in the 40s at the end of January. The spin-off from Cyclone Yasi and monsoonal activity in the north and west brought more unseasonal weather across the southern regions of the country. Weather conditions encouraged the spread of powdery mildew and downy mildew, with the highest levels of disease experienced since 1992/93. There was also a return of plague locusts through the region, causing damage in the more isolated vineyards. Veraison began in mid-February, heralding a late beginning to the harvest. Thunderstorm activity continued through February with mild temperatures causing a nervous anticipation to the impending vintage. Rain, high humidity and mild temperatures continued through March, making it one of the wettest since 1974. This affected the ripening but allowed for early flavour development and maintained acidity.

Wine Description

Crimson with violet hues. Fragrant, youthful aromas of red currants, pepper and spice supported by underlying dark fruits, while the palate is elegantly structured and full of blackcurrants, cassis fruits, pronounced spice and pepper flavours with fine-grained tannins on the finish.

Reviewed August 2012



Cellaring Potential

Very good vintage,
10+ years (from vintage).

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