



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Joseph Hill Gewürztraminer 2014

Grape Variety

100% gewürztraminer grown in the Adelaide Hills and Eden Valley.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 6 March | Alcohol: 12.5% | pH: 3.04 | Acidity: 7.0g/L

Maturation

Fermented in tank and bottled post-vintage to preserve the aromatic 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 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. This year a percentage from the Henschke Archer's Vineyard has been included to lend greater aromatics and complexity.

Vintage Description

The 2014 moon cycles put Easter quite late in the season and so the expectation of a late harvest prevailed until South Australia experienced its record number of heat days over 40C in January, culminating in the worst bushfire in Eden Valley in living memory. This ended in the wettest February in 44 years, with between 115 and 150mm of rain, all in 48 hours. Fortunately, Eden Valley and the Adelaide Hills were still in veraison, which allowed the quenching rain to rebalance the fruit, particularly in the older dry-grown vineyards. The yields appeared depressingly minuscule, due to a severe black frost in spring and cold windy weather during flowering in early December. Early picks of semillon and shiraz after the heat wave were in response to vine stress. The change to mild autumnal weather in late February after the rains allowed for a focus on other early vintage varieties, riesling in Eden Valley and pinot noir at Lenswood. Mild weather with cold dewy mornings and windy days prevailed. Disease pressure increased as March became colder and wetter, which seemed to change to a winter pattern after the equinox. It was indeed a late vintage and also resulted in one of the longest. The picking of Eden Valley cabernet and Lenswood merlot brought the season to a close at the beginning of May, where skilled vineyard teams played a critical role by hand selecting and picking the best quality fruit during the onset of rain and cold wintery weather. In summary, a challenging season with excellent quality but very low yields.

Wine Description

Pale straw with lime hues. Lifted honeysuckle, old-fashioned rose petal and white lavender aromas with the characteristic nuances of Turkish delight, musk stick and ginger spice. The palate begins with a lovely intensity of tropical fruits and citrus zest that is balanced with crisp acidity and minerality that create texture and a long finish with lingering rose and bath salt nuances.

Reviewed August 2014



Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
15+ years (from vintage).