



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Johann's Garden 2014

Grape Variety

70% grenache, 24% mataro and 6% shiraz grapes grown in the Barossa Valley.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 17 March-16 April | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.52 | Acidity: 5.7g/L

Maturation

Grenache, mataro and shiraz vinified separately. Matured in seasoned French hogsheads for 10 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

Named as a tribute to the early Barossa Lutheran pioneers, many of whom carried the first name of *Johann*. Their toil, perseverance and conservatism in hardship has meant that the many generations that followed rejoiced in the riches of their prudent efforts. Barossa growers traditionally referred to their vineyard as their garden, from the German *Weingarten*. This blend is just one of those blessings. The traditions and culture have survived to this day, including the winemaking techniques used in this grenache blend. It is produced from low-yielding, old, gnarled, dry-grown bush and trellised vines on limestone soils from selected vineyards.

Vintage Description

The 2014 vintage began with the winery coming alive to the fragrant aromas of fermentation. But what a year we had! In 2014, the moon cycles put Easter quite late in the season, 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 taste of hell ended in the wettest February in 44 years - all in 48 hours, when we received between 115 and 150mm of rain. 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 solstice. It was indeed a late vintage and also resulted in one of our longest vintages. 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 good quality but very low yields.

Wine Description

Vibrant deep crimson with garnet hues. Lifted, fragrant aromas of fresh raspberries, dark plums and cranberries are complemented beautifully by savoury nuances of anise, cumin seeds, cracked black pepper, nutmeg, mace and dried herbs. The palate is pure, dense and concentrated with ripe raspberry and plum flavours balanced by rustic hints of turned earth, musk stick and black pepper; complex layers of texture and fine-grained velvety tannins.



Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage,
15+ years (from vintage).

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