



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Tappa Pass Shiraz 2013

Grape Variety

100% old-vine shiraz grown in the Barossa (Eden Valley and Barossa Valley).

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 20 February-1 March | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.56 | Acidity: 6.14g/L

Maturation

Matured in 61% new and 39% seasoned French hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

The Barossa has a core of traditional growers of Lutheran descent dating back five generations, staunchly continuing the traditions of their forebears. Occasionally, one or two parcels of fruit of overwhelming quality come over the weighbridge; this is such an example. The 50-year-old, low-yielding vines are growing in low-fertility Neoproterozoic soils more than 542 million years old, ranging from terra rossa to red-brown earths. The fully ripe black shiraz grapes were sourced from three grower vineyards in Tappa Pass, Light Pass and Eden Valley and were vinified in traditional open-top fermenters.

Vintage Description

The lead-up to the 2013 vintage saw an early onset of summer, with occasional thunderstorms and only four heat spikes, into the 40s, over summer. A cooler than average January followed by a warm February, brought the predicted early vintage even further forward. Even after the *dry-pecta* of winter/spring/summer the word from the winery floor was that it would be another great Eden Valley riesling year, followed up with some great old-vine shiraz. Fortunately, a desperately needed 16mm of rain came, the first for nearly six months, at the beginning of March to help the dry-grown vines struggle through to full maturity. The roller-coaster weather ride continued through March with almost weekly cycles of hot and cold. Cool drizzly weather at the end of March nearly brought the harvest to a halt, but with a return to the Indian summer conditions in early April, it gave us a chance to get the late varieties in Eden Valley over the line, predominantly cabernet sauvignon and merlot, returning us to another great vintage of average yields and fabulous rock solid quality.

Wine Description

Deep crimson with purple hues. Concentrated and lifted aromas of black and blue berries and Satsuma plums surrounding hints of bay leaf, tarragon, anise and black pepper spice. The vibrant, richly fruited palate shows plush and complex layers of black and blue fruits, baked plums and cedar, balanced beautifully with texture, natural acidity and fine-grained tannins and a hint of Dutch chocolate, leading to a long finish.

Reviewed September 2015



Cellaring Potential

Great vintage,
20+ years (from vintage).

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