



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards



Mount Edelstone 2004

Grape Variety

100% 92-year-old single-vineyard shiraz grapes grown in the Eden Valley wine region.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 3-26 April | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.55 | Acidity: 6.4g/L

Maturation

Matured in new and seasoned French and American hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

The Mount Edelstone vineyard, situated in the Eden Valley, was planted in 1912 by Ronald Angas, a descendant of George Fife Angas, who founded South Australia. Unusual for its time, it was planted solely to shiraz. The ancient 500-million-year-old soils on the vineyard are deep red-brown clay-loam to clay, resulting in low yields from the nearly 100-year-old dry-grown ungrafted Centenarian vines. First bottled as a single-vineyard wine in 1952, it became recognised as one of Australia's greatest shiraz wines.

Vintage Description

The average winter rainfall this season was a welcome relief after 2003's fourth-worst drought in history. The soil profile was filled at last, as were most growers' dams. A relatively frost-free, wet, warm and thundery spring followed, which created a natural 'greenhouse' effect for the vines. They grew vigorously, flowered and in general set a large crop. December was the hottest for 10 years, however at the start of 2004 the weather became mild and windy, tempered by the cool southerlies off the ocean. The month of January was the coolest since 1992 and the vines thrived with virtually no heat stress. Since the start of February, traditionally the hottest month, everyone's worst fears were realised, with searing heat causing sunburn and significant crop losses. New records were broken with South Australia experiencing its hottest day ever. Fortunately March returned the region to glorious sunny days and cold dewy nights, with a couple of minor rain events, allowing the fruit to ripen under perfect conditions. The vintage was almost as late as 2002. Where crop thinning was done, the season produced excellent wines with a seamless elegance.

Wine Description

Very deep crimson in colour. The plush aromas of sweet ripe plums, anise, blackberries and blue fruits are complimented by savoury nuances of spicy black pepper and fresh sage. The intense palate is fleshy and complex with rich dark fruits and spices, layers of flavour and texture, rich velvety tannins and great length.

Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
20+ years (from vintage).

Reviewed August 2012