



# HENSCHKE

OVER 150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING



## 2021 THE WHEELWRIGHT

### GRAPE VARIETY

100% shiraz grown on The Wheelwright Vineyard on the Henschke Eden Valley property, managed with organic and biodynamic practices.

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Harvest Date: 13 – 16 April | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.47 | Acidity: 6.4g/L

### MATURATION

Matured in 10% new and 90% seasoned (82% French, 18% American) oak hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

### WINE DESCRIPTION

Deep crimson with violet hues. Captivating raspberry, Satsuma plum and blackberry are entwined with high-toned, heady garrigue herbs, black peppercorn, nutmeg, anise, violets and wild lavender. A vibrant core of mulberry and blueberry fruit is supported by white pepper and violets, bright acidity, lovely texture and powerful fine-grained tannins building on the long, spicy finish.

### BACKGROUND

The Wheelwright, first released to commemorate 150 years of Henschke family winemaking, pays tribute to our founder, winemaker Johann Christian Henschke (1803-1873). He was among the first generation of the early German Silesian community of the Barossa in South Australia and established the family winery in 1868. Johann Christian arrived in 1841 as a skilled stonemason and wheelwright and planted his first vineyards in the high country of the picturesque Eden Valley. This wine is produced from old vine shiraz planted in 1968, a century later, by fourth-generation Cyril Henschke near the village of Eden Valley at 470m altitude. As per the Barossa Old Vine Charter, an 'old vine' is equal to or greater than 35 years of age.

### VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

Average rainfall in the winter of 2020 was followed by even budburst, with buds showing good fruitfulness. Frost damage was significant, and spring was cloudy, with good rains pre-flowering, followed by short bursts of hot weather in late November. The late-flowering varieties were impacted by heat at the end of November and strong winds in early December damaged the canopies, although the crop remained disease free. January was dry, with a burst of heat prior to a perfectly timed rain event at veraison in early February. The lead up to vintage was cool, cloudy and mostly dry. After our coolest summer for 19 years, a warm autumn provided ideal conditions for ripening in our red varieties, achieving excellent colour, flavour intensity and tannin maturity. The 2021 vintage will be considered a standout of the decade; remembered for complex wines with exceptional varietal expression, balance and purity, that speak of the ancient land from which they originate. With a likeness to the high-quality vintages of 1986, 2002, 2005, and 2015, all of which were mild seasons, the 2021 single-vineyard wines show an impressive potential for long-term ageing in ideal cellaring conditions.

### CELLARING POTENTIAL

Exceptional vintage;  
30+ years (from vintage).

REVIEWED June 2024



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AUSTRALIA'S  
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