



HENSCHKE

OVER 150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING



2016 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: 24 – 30 March | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.53 | Acidity: 6.03g/L

MATURATION

Matured in 10% new and 90% seasoned (95% French, 5% American) oak hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling. Bottle aged in the Henschke cellar for museum release.

WINE DESCRIPTION

Deep garnet with crimson hues. Lifted aromas of blackberry, plum and mulberry are complemented by violets, crushed flowering herbs, black pepper, anise, sage, vanilla and Dutch cocoa. A fine and linear palate of blackcurrant and red cherry is layered with savoury spice, fresh herbs and dark chocolate, with bright acidity and velvety tannins delivering a balanced 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

The 2016 vintage began with below-average winter rainfall, followed by a warm and dry spring, which enhanced flowering and fruit set. Low disease pressure was maintained by one of the hottest Decembers on record, though temperatures cooled in the New Year and rainfall around veraison in late January brought relief to the vineyard. This was followed by further rainfall in early March, which eased stress on all varieties. Open, light canopies allowed for good flavour, sugar and colour, and mature tannins to develop at harvest, with the vintage overall characterised by average yields but very high quality.

DRINKING WINDOW

Exceptional vintage;
drink now to 2050+.

REVIEWED May 2026