



HENSCHKE

Lenswood Abbotts Prayer 2004

Grape Variety

88% merlot and 12% cabernet sauvignon grapes grown on Stephen and Prue Henschke's Lenswood vineyard in the Adelaide Hills.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 7 - 14 May | Alcohol: 14% | pH: 3.59 | Acidity: 5.9g/L

Maturation

Background

Stephen and Prue Henschke, fifth-generation winemakers at the family cellars at Keyneton, selected Lenswood in 1981 as a new vineyard site, just 50km from their ancient Mount Edelstone and Hill of Grace vineyards. At 550m, the Lenswood vineyard slopes offer not only beautiful views towards the older vine country but also higher rainfall and humidity at the right time of the year, cooler temperatures to retain natural acidity, and still enough sunshine to fully ripen the grapes. The Abbotts Prayer label links together the history, religion and pioneers of this mountainous region. This property along Coldstore Road, including the vineyard, pioneered by T N Mitchell, the first settler, and was originally known as Abbotts Flat. Vineyards were previously established in this area in the late 1800s.

Vintage Description

The average winter rainfall this season was a welcome relief after 2003's fourth-worst drought in history. A relatively frost-free, wet warm and thundery spring followed, creating a natural 'greenhouse' effect. The vines 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 and the vines thrived under virtually no heat stress. At the start of February searing heat caused sunburn and significant crop losses. New records were broken with South Australia experiencing its hottest day ever.

Wine Description

Deep red with garnet hues. Lovely, bright ripe plum, mulberry and blackcurrant aromas with dark chocolate, anise, violets, black tea, tomato leaf herbal support and light ferny edges, building leathery complexity. A rich, full, plush palate of Satsuma plum and mulberry, with layers of spice and energetic acidity, providing structure and drive for a long finish of dark chocolate coated, velvety tannins.

Updated description per June 2021 tasting.



Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
drink 2013 to 2020.