



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Lenswood Abbotts Prayer 2002

Grape Variety

93% merlot and 7% cabernet sauvignon grapes grown on Stephen and Prue Henschke's Lenswood vineyard in the Adelaide Hills.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 21 March-29 April | *Alcohol:* 14% | *pH:* 3.59 | *Acidity:* 5.9g/L

Maturation

Matured in 80% new and 20% seasoned French hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

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, was originally known as Abbotts Flat. Vineyards were previously established in this area in the late 1800s.

Vintage Description

The year 2002 goes down as being the coolest, windiest 'non-summer' on record, following on from our hottest summer on record in 2001. It was preceded by a wet winter and a spring that was cold, wet and windy - like winter really. The drizzly cold weather affected the flowering and caused poor fruit set, commonly known as 'hen and chicken', leading to very little fruit. In particular riesling and shiraz, Eden Valley signature varieties, were the worst affected with crop reductions leaving us with less than 20% in some varieties. In addition the season was 2-3 weeks late due to the unseasonable cold weather.

With the smaller crop level, the balance of sugar, flavour and natural acidity in the fruit were excellent. Despite the pitiful crop 2002 was one of our most exceptional vintages ever, helped by the warm, dry Indian summer autumn period, providing sensational colours, flavours and ageing potential.

Wine Description

Deep red with brick red hues. Exotic aromas of paprika and Moroccan spices overlay intense plum skin and molasses characters. The supple palate shows briary blackcurrant and ripe mulberry fruits. Fine acid supported by charry oak leads to a long finish.

Reviewed July 2010

Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage,
20+ years.