



# HENSCHKE

150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING

## 1999 HILL OF GRACE



### GRAPE VARIETY

100% shiraz from pre-phyloxera material brought from Europe by the early settlers in the mid-1800s and grown on the Hill of Grace vineyard in the Eden Valley wine region.

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Harvest Date 17 March | Alcohol: 14% | pH: 3.3 | Acidity: 6.2g/L

### MATURATION

Matured in new American and French oak hogsheads prior to blending and bottling. Bottle aged at Henschke Cellars in Keyneton for museum release.

### WINE DESCRIPTION

Very dark crimson with brick red hues. Classic Hill of Grace aromas of ripe blueberries and plums woven between five spice, anise and tar nuances, and building beef stock and roast meat complexities. Rich and plush, the palate shows wild gamey notes and a touch of Dutch licorice, with a soft, elegant mouthfeel and long, slightly drying fine tannins.

### BACKGROUND

Over 165 years ago Johann Christian Henschke came from Silesia to settle and farm in the Eden Valley region. By the time third-generation Paul Alfred Henschke took over the reins in 1914, the famous Hill of Grace vines were more than 50 years old. They were planted around the 1860s by an ancestor, Nicolaus Stanitzki, in rich alluvial soil in a shallow fertile valley just north-west of the winery. The red-brown earth grading to deep silty loam has excellent moisture-holding capacity for these dry-grown vines, which sit at an altitude of 400m, with an average rainfall of 520mm. Hill of Grace is a unique, delineated, historic single vineyard that lies opposite a beautiful old Lutheran church which is named after a picturesque region in Silesia called Gnadenberg, meaning Hill of Grace. Cyril Henschke made the first single-vineyard shiraz wine from this vineyard in 1958 from handpicked grapes vinified in traditional open-top fermenters.

### VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

The latter part of spring led into one of the hottest summers on record, with virtually no rain. The drought conditions resulted in smaller berry size producing spicy, dark intense reds. Tropical cyclones Elaine and Vance brought unseasonal rains in mid-March, causing widespread botrytis problems requiring careful handpicking. 1999 proved to be another challenging vintage for Eden Valley although the final quality results made it worthwhile.

### CELLARING POTENTIAL

Excellent vintage,  
30+ years (from vintage).

REVIEWED July 2017