



# HENSCHKE

OVER 150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING

## 1996 HILL OF GRACE

### GRAPE VARIETY

100% shiraz from pre-phyloxera material brought from Europe in the mid-1800s and grown on the Henschke Hill of Grace Vineyard in the Eden Valley wine region, managed with organic practices.

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Harvest Date: Early April | Alcohol: 13.8% | pH: 3.48 | Acidity: 5.7g/L

### MATURATION

Matured in French and American oak hogsheads for 21 months prior to blending and bottling. Bottle aged in the Henschke cellar for museum release.

### DESCRIPTION

Deep ruby with tawny hues. Ethereal aromas of blackberry, raspberry, plum and date, with nuances of five spice, nutmeg, clove, cherry oak, leather and earth. Spiced plum and black olive are layered with hints of shiitake mushroom, crushed herbs and cedar, balanced by fine acidity, excellent depth and a long, seamless finish.

### BACKGROUND

Over 180 years ago, Johann Christian Henschke came from Silesia to settle and build his farm in the Eden Valley region. By the time third-generation Paul Alfred Henschke took over the reins in 1914, the now famed Hill of Grace vines were more than 50 years old. The original vines, known as the 'Grandfathers', were planted around 1860 by an ancestor, Nicolaus Stanitzki, in rich alluvial soil in a shallow fertile valley just north-west of the Henschke family winery. The red-brown earth grading to deep silty loam has excellent moisture-holding capacity for these dry-grown vines, that 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 region in Silesia known as Gnadenberg, translating to '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. The original Ancestors (vines over 125 years) are now approximately 160 years old and remain the heart of the Hill of Grace wine, along with a small selection of Centenarians (vines over 100 years), Survivors (vines over 70 years), and Old Vines (vines over 35 years), all planted on their own roots.

### VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

Following one of the worst droughts in history, soil moisture and dam levels were extremely low ahead of vintage. Despite a frosty, windy spring with little rain, fruit set was better than the previous year. Hot, dry, windy summer weather stressed vines, reducing berry size and crop. A major rain event in late February caused fruit split. Vintage was small but of very good quality.

### DRINKING WINDOW

Exceptional vintage;  
drink now to 2045.

REVIEWED June 2025



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AUSTRALIA'S  
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OF WINE

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