



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards



Johann's Garden 2012

Grape Variety

66% grenache, 29% mataro and 5% shiraz grapes grown in the Barossa (Barossa Valley and Eden Valley).

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 4-17 April | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.42 | Acidity: 6.36g/L

Maturation

Grenache, mataro and shiraz vinified separately. Matured in seasoned French hogsheads for 12 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

Named as a tribute to the early Barossa Lutheran pioneers, many of whom carried the first name of *Johann*. Their toil, perseverance and conservatism in hardship has meant that the many generations that followed rejoiced in the riches of their prudent efforts. Barossa growers traditionally referred to their vineyard as their garden, from the German *Weingarten*. This blend is just one of those blessings. The traditions and culture have survived to this day, including the winemaking techniques used in this grenache blend. It is produced from low-yielding, old, gnarled, dry-grown bush and trellised vines on limestone soils from selected vineyards.

Vintage Description

The La Niña pattern weakened during the lead-up to the 2012 vintage, resulting in below average winter and spring rainfall. July was the driest since the serious drought of 2003. Spring was mild with few frost events; however, flowering and fruit set were affected by wet drizzly weather in mid to late November, leading to only average yields. Summer was also surprisingly mild with below average temperatures from southerlies off the ocean in January and only two short heat events, at New Year and at the end of February. This provided for slow ripening which allowed for intense fruit flavours, high colour figures, high acidity and mature tannins. Rainfall leading up to vintage was above average, with the heaviest rainfall events in late January and late February, which tied in well with the natural physiology of the dry-grown vines; ie, keeping leaves active at veraison and ripening. Temperatures were mild during harvest through March, warming to an Indian summer in April, allowing for a long window of picking and amazing maturities with the red varieties. Yields were average with exceptional overall quality.

Wine Description

Deep garnet with violet hues. Intense aromas of plums, raspberries, blueberries, lavender and rosehip spice with deeper underlying nuances of briary black fruits, cloves, anise and chocolate. The rich, lush palate is concentrated with dark fruits and spices, a beautifully soft and creamy texture, and fine-grained tannins for a long and savoury finish.

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Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage,
20+ years (from vintage).

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