



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Tappa Pass Shiraz 2004 (Cellar Release)

Grape Variety

100% old-vine shiraz grown in the Barossa (Eden Valley and Barossa Valley).

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 15-23 March | Alcohol: 14% | pH: 3.71 | Acidity: 6.0g/L

Maturation

Matured in 79% new and 21% seasoned French oak hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

The Barossa has a core of traditional growers of Lutheran descent dating back five generations, staunchly continuing the traditions of their forebears. Occasionally one or two parcels of fruit of overwhelming quality come over the weighbridge; this is one such example. The 50-year-old, low-yielding vines are growing in low-fertility Neoproterozoic soils more than 542 million years old, ranging from red-brown earths to terra rossa. The fully ripe black shiraz grapes were sourced from grower vineyards in Tappa Pass and Light Pass and were vinified in traditional open-top fermenters.

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 where 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. Fortunately March returned the region to glorious sunny days and cold dewy nights, with a couple of minor rain events, allowing the fruit to ripen under near perfect conditions. The vintage was almost as late as 2002, with good yields and excellent quality.

Wine Description

Deep crimson red in colour. Sweet, ripe aromas of plums, prunes, blackcurrants and anise with vanilla and spicy rosemary nuances. The rich palate of plum and dark chocolate is lush and fleshy with excellent balance and great length.

Reviewed March 2011



Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
15+ years (from vintage).