



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

The Alan Reserve Pinot Noir 2010

Grape Variety

100% pinot noir grapes grown on Stephen and Prue Henschke's Archer's vineyard at Lenswood in the Adelaide Hills.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 1-10 March | Alcohol: 13.5% | pH: 3.52 | Acidity: 6.2g/L

Maturation

Matured on lees in new and seasoned French barriques for 9 months prior to blending, then returned to seasoned French oak hogsheads for a further 3 months before bottling.

Background

In 1981, fifth-generation winemaker Stephen Henschke and his wife Prue purchased a property in the Adelaide Hills with the intention of planting varieties well suited to the cooler climate of the region. The vineyard was originally part of a beautiful valley of apple orchards and natural forest that were destroyed by the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983. Sitting at an altitude of 550m with an annual average rainfall of 1100mm, the Lenswood vineyard slopes offer not only beautiful views towards the older vine country, but also provide enough sunshine to fully ripen the grapes, together with cooler temperatures to retain natural acidity. This reserve pinot noir is produced from hand-selected fruit from the best plots of 25-year-old vines and named as a tribute to Alan Archer, whose love of wine and food helped create The Chesser Cellar's fame in Adelaide.

Vintage Description

The 2010 Adelaide Hills vintage received above average rainfall. A two-week heat wave experienced across South Australia in November had less impact on the vines in the Adelaide Hills, as it was less severe and occurred pre-flowering. Rain continued through until midsummer and was recorded as one of the wettest seasons for many years. Like Eden Valley, the vintage in the Hills was a week earlier than 2009. Powdery mildew was more prevalent due to the very humid conditions experienced throughout the summer, which was a good test for the organic and biodynamic strategies. The earlier vintage without the extremes in temperature produced high quality fruit with great flavour and fine acids, but did affect the quantity, with average yields.

Wine Description

Crimson in colour with ruby hues. Sweet, complex aromas of ripe black cherry; restrained wild forest fruits and tomato stems, with hints of clove, herbs and spices. The palate is elegant with fleshy, textural layers of complex savoury flavours and minerality, balanced acidity, creamy fine-grained tannins and beautiful length.

Reviewed September 2011



Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage,
20+ years (from vintage).