

HENSCHKE



Tasting Notes

Wine and Vintage

Lenswood Abbotts Prayer 1998

Grape Varieties

86% merlot, 10% cabernet sauvignon and 4% cabernet franc grown on Stephen and Prue Henschke's Lenswood vineyard in the Adelaide Hills.

Background

Stephen and Prue Henschke, fifth-generation winemakers at Keyneton, chose Lenswood in 1981 as a new vineyard site, just 50km from their ancient Mount Edelstone and Hill of Grace vineyards. At 550 metres, the Lenswood vineyard slopes offer not only beautiful views over the older vine country, but also higher rainfall and humidity at the right time of the year, cooler temperatures to retain natural acidity, and still enough sunshine to fully ripen the grapes. The Abbotts Prayer label links together the history, religion and pioneers of this mountainous region. An area along Coldstore Road which leads to the vineyard was originally known as Abbotts Flat, named after the first settler. Vineyards were previously established in this area in the late 1800s.

Vintage Description

The preceding winter was unusually dry, with frosty nights and clear days. The rain instead came in spring, and the luxuriantly growing vines benefited from the greenhouse effect. The indicators were of a hot dry summer, although only a serious burst of heat was experienced in mid January and again at the end of February; otherwise it was a mild summer, which had a significant delaying effect on the ripening process. An early onset of autumn caused a late harvest, with average yields, good to exceptional quality and intense flavour in the grapes.

Wine Description

Very deep crimson in colour. Sweet violets, mulberries and cigar box aromas with cassis and herbal hints. Exceptional palate structure and balance with fine-grained tannins, richness, complexity and great length.

Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage, optimum year 2008.

Serving Ideas

Braised venison, beef or kangaroo, wild mushrooms and roasted onions, baked as individual pies in buttery flaky pastry.

Technical Data

Harvest date: 6-12 May
Alcohol: 14.1
pH: 3.32
Acid: 6.6