



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Giles Pinot Noir 1998

Grape Variety

100% pinot noir grapes grown on Stephen and Prue Henschke's Lenswood vineyard in the Adelaide Hills, planted over 25 years ago.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: Early March | *Alcohol:* 13.9% | *pH:* 3.48 | *Acidity:* 5.8g/L

Maturation

Matured on lees in seasoned French barriques for 10 months prior to blending and 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. The pinot noir vineyard has been named after Charles Giles, an early pioneer whose descendants had managed the property as an apple orchard since 1864.

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 'green house' 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

Bright crimson ruby in colour, sweet ripe spicy wild cherry, raspberry and plum aromas with nuances of cloves, rhubarb and cream and underlying sappy, gamey notes. The palate is rich and soft, with sweet fruit, silky tannins and an excellent long finish.



Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
15+ years (from vintage).

Reviewed August 2003