

HENSCHKE





HENRY'S SEVEN 2004

Grape Varieties

60% shiraz, 30% grenache 5% mourvèdre and 5% viognier grown in the Barossa.

Background

The shiraz grenache viognier is a tribute to Henry Evans who planted the first vineyard of seven acres at Keyneton in 1853. He quickly developed a reputation for producing the best wines in the southern colony. Following Henry's death in 1868 his widow Sarah exercised her temperance convictions by closing the winery and uprooting all the winegrapes. This blend highlights the historical introduction of southern French and Spanish varieties to South Australia in those early pioneering days and reflects the history, religion and culture of the Barossa.

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. 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 fruit quality.

Wine Description

Crimson in colour. Sweet floral plum and anise aromas, with hints of toasty oak, stone-fruits and violets. The palate has nice weight and balance with sweet fruit, silky texture and long velvety tannins.

Cellaring Potential

Great vintage, drink 2006-2008.

Serving Ideas

Soy braised duck.

Technical Data

Harvest date: 15 March-14 May

Alcohol: 15% pH 3.58 Acid: 5.8g/l

Stelvin cap: Bottled under a Stelvin screw cap to capture the freshness and keeping qualities of this wine and to protect its purity from corkinfluenced off characters.