



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Cranes Eden Valley Chardonnay 2008

Grape Variety

100% chardonnay grown in the Henschke Cranes Vineyard at Eden Valley.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 26-28 February | Alcohol: 13% | pH: 3.24 | Acidity: 6.9g/L

Maturation

50% aged on lees for 6 months in seasoned 225L French barriques. Remainder aged on lees in tank for complexity without any obvious oak character and blended prior to bottling.

Background

Eden Valley is located in the cooler South Mount Lofty Ranges, east of the Barossa Valley, with an altitude of 450-500m, rainfall of around 700mm and well-drained soils consisting of sandy loam over clay. The Cranes Chardonnay has taken its name from Charles Crane, who pioneered the region at the source of the North Para River near Eden Valley in 1866 and after whom the village of Craneford was named.

Vintage Description

The 2008 vintage in Eden Valley was preceded by an average rainfall and a mild and unusually frost-free spring with regular rainfall periods. Fine flowering weather meant good set despite the expectation that the previous drought year of 2007 would affect yields. The vines also showed surprisingly vigorous growth. A dry and hotter than average early summer caused smaller berry and bunch size. Although temperatures climbed to over 40C around New Year and in mid-February, the weather from mid-January through February was the coolest for 30 years, allowing amazing development of fruit colour, flavour and maturity. One of the earliest harvests on record, which began early February, produced exceptional whites. It was an easy season to practise organic viticulture and a season that demanded biodynamics to keep the vines healthy.

Wine Description

Straw with a gold-green hue. The nose exhibits peach, nectarine and honeydew, with notes of mixed spices and yeast dough hints. Stone-fruit, melon and pear flavours with a creamy texture, good length and a crisp, fresh finish.



Cellaring Potential

Great vintage, 5+ years.