



## CRANES EDEN VALLEY CHARDONNAY 2006

### *Grape Varieties*

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

### *Wine Description*

Pale gold in colour. Fragrant, with aromas of honeysuckle, peach and pear, spicy fig and honey yoghurt with underlying toasty biscuity oak. The palate is rich, full and soft with a fleshy texture, crisp acidity and good length.

### *Cellaring Potential*

Great vintage, drink now to 2010.

### *Serving Idea*

Roasted tomato & barley pilaf with labneh, spinach & beans.

### *Technical Data*

Harvest date: 9-14 March  
Alcohol: 13%  
pH 3.21  
Acid: 6.97 g/l

Stelvin cap: Bottled under a Stelvin screw cap to capture the freshness and keeping qualities of chardonnay and to protect its purity from cork-influenced off characters.

### *Background*

Eden Valley is located in the cooler South Mount Lofty Ranges, east of the Barossa Valley, with an altitude of 450-500 metres, 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 2006 vintage shaped up as another high quality year but with only average yields in the Eden Valley and Adelaide Hills. After a late break in mid-June last year, winter and spring rains were some of the best for years in the lead-up to flowering in early summer. Some varieties, such as riesling and shiraz, suffered more than others from poor set, leading to 'hen and chicken'. While there was some damage in Eden Valley from frost, this had only a minor impact on the overall yield; however, yields in most varieties have shown to be down by 15-20%.

The summer was mild with southerly winds, reminiscent of 2002. Brief heat waves occurred in late January and mid-February but were early enough not to affect quality, with only minor sunburn on exposed fruit.

Whites were nearly all picked by the end of March, an unusual situation.

*Summary:* Excellent to Exceptional white vintage with below average yields.