



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards

Eleanor's Cottage Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2014

Grape Variety

A blend of 62% semillon and 38% sauvignon blanc (58% from the Henschke Eden Valley vineyard and 42% from the Henschke Lenswood vineyard in the Adelaide Hills).

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 17 February-10 April | Alcohol: 13% | pH: 3.12 | Acidity: 6.4g/L

Maturation

Fermented in tank and bottled post-vintage to preserve the aromatic fruit characters.

Background

The Henschke Eden Valley vineyard was originally established on the top of the range overlooking Eden Valley, a property pioneered and managed by George Crossman Thyer. In 1848 he married Eleanor Hill, after whom this wine is named, and their original cottage still exists today.

Vintage Description

The 2014 moon cycles put Easter quite late in the season and so the expectation of a late harvest prevailed until South Australia experienced its record number of heat days over 40C in January, culminating in the worst bushfire in Eden Valley in living memory. This ended in the wettest February in 44 years, with between 115 and 150mm of rain, all in 48 hours. Fortunately, Eden Valley and the Adelaide Hills were still in veraison, which allowed the quenching rain to rebalance the fruit, particularly in the older dry-grown vineyards. The yields appeared depressingly minuscule, due to a severe black frost in spring and cold windy weather during flowering in early December. Early picks of semillon and shiraz after the heat wave were in response to vine stress. The change to mild autumnal weather in late February after the rains allowed for a focus on other early vintage varieties, riesling in Eden Valley and pinot noir at Lenswood. Mild weather with cold dewy mornings and windy days prevailed. Disease pressure increased as March became colder and wetter, which seemed to change to a winter pattern after the equinox. It was indeed a late vintage and also resulted in one of the longest. The picking of Eden Valley cabernet and Lenswood merlot brought the season to a close at the beginning of May, where skilled vineyard teams played a critical role by hand selecting and picking the best quality fruit during the onset of rain and cold wintery weather. In summary, a challenging season with excellent quality but very low yields.

Wine Description

Pale straw with lime hues. Lifted, fragrant aromas of lemon and grapefruit citrus, gooseberry, lemon grass and kaffir lime leaf, with supporting notes of stone-fruit, white flowers and citrus blossom. The delicate, yet generous front palate shows citrus, stone-fruit and gooseberry flavours, with zesty minerality and texture, crisp acidity and excellent length.



Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
5+ years (from vintage).

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