



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards



Joseph Hill Gewürztraminer 1998

Grape Variety

100% gewürztraminer grown in Eden Valley.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 24 March | Alcohol: 13.5% | pH: 3.01 | Acidity: 6.5g/L

Maturation

Fermented in tank and bottled post-vintage (no oak or tank maturation) to preserve the wine's fruit characters.

Background

The traminer grape originated in the Tramin area of the north-east of Italy. This variety has been grown for centuries in French Alsace and Germany. The German prefix *gewürz*, meaning spicy, is used when the wine exhibits an aromatic spicy character. The altitude, cool climate and deep loam soils of Eden Valley provide excellent conditions for this variety. The gewürztraminer vineyard is planted on well-drained deep sandy loam and silt. It is named after Joseph Hill Thyer who pioneered the first vines on this property in the early 1900s.

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 greenhouse 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

Gold in colour. A delicate, fragrant bouquet, exhibiting lavender florals with hints of bath talc, rose petal, lychee and spicy notes of cardamon and caraway. The rich, full, sweet-fruited palate is balanced by a long, clean, crisp acid finish.

Reviewed July 2009

Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage,
10+ years