



# HENSCHKE

*Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards*

## Noble Rot Semillon 2010

### Grape Variety

100% semillon grown on the Henschke Eden Valley estate vineyard, naturally infected with *Botrytis cinerea*.

### Technical Details

Harvest Date: 27 May | Alcohol: 11.0% | pH: 3.19 | Acidity: 8.6g/L

### Maturation

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

### Background

For centuries in Europe very late harvest wines have been made from grapes infected in the vineyard with the *Botrytis cinerea* mould, such as French sauternes and German beerenauslese. This mould, known as the Noble Rot, develops in the ripening grape berries causing higher sugar and acid levels to be achieved with corresponding enhancement of flavours and lusciousness of the wine.

### Vintage Description

The 2010 growing season was preceded by above average winter rainfall that built up moisture in the soil profile and provided water for the dams. Spring was mild with little frost damage and gave us an even budburst. The weather remained cold and wet through spring which held back growth until a two-week high 30s heat wave in November affected flowering and fruit set. Spring rains continued into early summer right through until mid-December, making it the wettest year since 2005. The vines responded to the heat and grew vigorously until early January, developing lush canopies, but bunch development suffered as a result.

A roller-coaster-ride of heat spikes and cool changes continued through a warm summer with occasional thunderstorms. The vines continued to look very healthy and went through veraison a week earlier than in 2009. Lower yields coupled with the mild ripening period resulted in incredibly concentrated fruit. Vintage began a week earlier than in 2009, on February 8, and was in full swing by mid-February. The white vintage was all but finished a month later, with no signs of sunburn or drought-affected berries. The red harvest continued with deeply coloured, well-balanced grapes being picked during superb mild, dry conditions through to the third week of April.

### Wine Description

Green-gold in colour. Sweet, floral, peach blossom aromas with hints of honey, nectar, nougat and citrus rind. The apricot and mandarin-flavoured palate is sweet and luscious yet finely textured, finishing with a crisp acidity.

Reviewed October 2010



### Cellaring Potential

Excellent vintage, drink now to 10+ years.