



HENSCHKE

OVER 150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING



2023 NOBLE SEMILLON

GRAPE VARIETY

100% semillon with naturally occurring *Botrytis cinerea*, grown on the Henschke Eden Valley Vineyard, managed with organic and biodynamic practices.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Harvest Date: 17 May | Alcohol: 8.5% | pH: 3.24 | Acidity: 6.46g/L | RS: 124.4g/L

MATURATION

Fermented in tank then matured in 50% seasoned French oak puncheons and 50% stainless steel for 14 months prior to blending and bottling, with a residual sugar of 124.4g/L.

WINE DESCRIPTION

Pale gold with green-gold hues. Fragrant aromas of citrus blossom, Meyer lemon, ginger, mandarin peel, orange marmalade and nougat. The palate is rich and luscious, interwoven with yellow peach, baked apricot, lemon meringue and quince, balanced by bright acidity and a long, lingering finish.

BACKGROUND

For centuries, very late harvest wines have been crafted in Europe from grapes with the naturally occurring *Botrytis cinerea* mould, such as French Sauternes and German Beerenauslese. This mould, known as noble rot, develops in the ripening grape berries, causing higher sugar and acid levels to be achieved, with a corresponding enhancement of flavours and lusciousness in the wine.

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

While the winter of 2022 saw average rainfall, the latter part of the year brought cooler and above average wet weather. This led to poor flower set and encouraged the spread of downy mildew. A hail flurry on 23 January caused some damage to the green berries, which became sites for botrytis infections later during ripening. The cool lead up to vintage resulted in a slow ripening period, allowing for great flavour development and acid retention. Rainfall during harvest encouraged the growth of botrytis, but careful hand selection during picking delivered good quality fruit. Despite the challenges, the 2023 vintage will be remembered for excellent quality wines with riesling, semillon and shiraz the standout varieties.

CELLARING POTENTIAL

Excellent vintage;
25+ years (from vintage).

REVIEWED June 2025



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