



HENSCHKE

OVER 150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING



2022 THE WHEELWRIGHT

GRAPE VARIETY

100% shiraz grown on The Wheelwright Vineyard on the Henschke Eden Valley property, managed with organic and biodynamic practices.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Harvest Date: 19–21 April | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.44 | Acidity: 6.0g/L

MATURATION

Matured in 10% new and 90% seasoned French oak hogsheads for 20 months prior to blending and bottling.

WINE DESCRIPTION

Deep crimson with violet hues. Fragrant aromas of raspberry, black cherry and boysenberry, with hints of nutmeg, aniseed, Dutch cocoa, sage, wild fennel and charcuterie. A poised palate reveals mulberry, blueberry and black plum woven with white and pink peppercorn and delicate floral notes, balanced by fine acidity, resolving into a long, silky tannin finish.

BACKGROUND

The Wheelwright, first released to commemorate 150 years of Henschke family winemaking, pays tribute to our founder, winemaker Johann Christian Henschke (1803–1873). He was among the first generation of the early German Silesian community of the Barossa in South Australia and established the family winery in 1868. Johann Christian arrived in 1841 as a skilled stonemason and wheelwright and planted his first vineyards in the high country of the picturesque Eden Valley. This wine is produced from old vine shiraz planted in 1968, a century later, by fourth-generation Cyril Henschke near the village of Eden Valley at 470m altitude. As per the Barossa Old Vine Charter, an 'old vine' is equal to or greater than 35 years of age.

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

The winter of 2021 brought good rainfall, refilling soil profiles, and the cool, slow start to the growing season resulted in budburst occurring two weeks later than average. An extreme hail event on 28 October decimated the young shoot growth across our vineyards in Keyneton, significantly reducing crop potential. Late flowering (late November to early December) avoided the cold and windy conditions, resulting in good fruit set, albeit with smaller yields. A burst of summer heat, without extremes, supported berry development and balanced canopy growth. Welcome rain in late January occurred just before veraison and ripening, leading into a mild and dry finish to summer. The 2022 vintage was late, with harvest dates one to two weeks later than the historical average. The resulting wines speak faithfully of their place, with elegance, distinction and enduring beauty. Reminiscent of the high-quality vintages of 1991, 1999, 2005, 2006, 2010 and 2015, the 2022 single-vineyard wines show wonderful ageing potential and will reward long-term cellaring under ideal conditions.

CELLARING POTENTIAL

Exceptional vintage;
30+ years (from vintage).

REVIEWED April 2025