



HENSCHKE

150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING



2014 HILL OF GRACE

GRAPE VARIETY

100% shiraz from pre-phylloxera material brought from Europe by the early settlers in the mid-1800s and grown on the Hill of Grace vineyard in the Eden Valley wine region.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Harvest Date: 7 - 10 April | Alcohol 14.5% | pH 3.49 | Acidity 5.95g/L

MATURATION

Matured in 89% French and 11% American (33% new, 67% seasoned) hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

WINE DESCRIPTION

Crimson in colour with deep red hues. Concentrated aromas of blue and black berry fruits, dark plum and exotic five spice exude from the glass, while more subtle and classic nuances of black pepper, sage and chicory allure and entice. The palate is rich, lush and elegantly structured with layers of texture and beautifully balanced flavours of blue and black fruits, dried herbs and charcuterie. Fine velvety tannins and a savoury mid-palate provide incredible length and depth.

BACKGROUND

Over 165 years ago Johann Christian Henschke came from Silesia to settle and build his farm in the Eden Valley region. By the time third-generation Paul Alfred Henschke took over the reins in 1914, the now famed Hill of Grace vines were more than 50 years old. They were planted around the 1860s by an ancestor, Nicolaus Stanitzki, in rich alluvial soil in a shallow fertile valley just north-west of the winery. The red-brown earth grading to deep silty loam has excellent moisture-holding capacity for these dry-grown vines, that sit at an altitude of 400m, with an average rainfall of 520mm. Hill of Grace is a unique, delineated, historic single vineyard that lies opposite a beautiful old Lutheran church, which is named after a picturesque region in Silesia known as Gnadenberg, meaning 'Hill of Grace'. Cyril Henschke made the first single-vineyard shiraz wine from this vineyard in 1958 from handpicked grapes vinified in traditional open-top fermenters.

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

The 2014 moon cycles put Easter quite late in the season, 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, and followed by the wettest February in 44 years. Fortunately Eden Valley was still in veraison, which allowed the quenching rain to rebalance the fruit, particularly in the older dry-grown vineyards. The change to mild autumnal weather in late February after the rains allowed for a focus on early vintage white varieties, while the red varieties continued to fully ripen. March became colder and wetter, which seemed to change to a winter pattern after the equinox, resulting in one of the longest and latest vintages. In summary, a challenging season with excellent quality but very low yields.

CELLARING POTENTIAL

Excellent vintage,
30+ years(from vintage).

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