



HENSCHKE

OVER 150 YEARS OF FAMILY WINEMAKING



2017 THE WHEELWRIGHT

GRAPE VARIETY

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

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Harvest Date: 26 April – 1 May | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.52 | Acidity: 6.02g/L

MATURATION

Matured in 16% new and 84% seasoned (87% French, 13% American) oak hogsheads for 18 months prior to blending and bottling.

WINE DESCRIPTION

Medium garnet with crimson hues. Lifted aromas of red plum, red currant, blue and black berries, rose hip and black pepper, with notes of bay leaf, sage, crushed flowering herbs, anise and hints of cedar. The palate is rich and plush, deep and concentrated with layers of spicy red cherry and red currant, interwoven with anise and vanilla. Balanced acidity gives freshness and poise, finishing with elegant, velvety, fine-grained tannins for a long fruit-driven finish.

BACKGROUND

The Wheelwright, first released to commemorate 150 years of Henschke family winemaking, pays tribute to the founding father, Johann Christian Henschke, first-generation winemaker and a skilled stonemason and wheelwright. This wine is crafted from low-yielding, ungrafted, biodynamically-grown old-vine shiraz. These vines were planted near the village of Eden Valley, at 500m altitude, in 1968 by fourth-generation winemaker Cyril Henschke, a century after his great-grandfather Johann Christian established the Henschke winery.

VINTAGE DESCRIPTION

A later start to picking and a mild period of ripening finished with the last grapes being picked in mid-May. A wet 2016 winter gave us a good foundation for our predominantly dry-grown vines on their own roots, and a cool, wet and fiercely windy spring followed, with a slightly higher spring rainfall than the Barossa Valley, which delayed flowering, though conditions during set meant that yields were at average levels. A mild summer with regular rainfall events followed, which allowed the grapes to reach full physiological maturity. The significant rainfall events largely missed our area and therefore we harvested the majority of our grapes in healthy condition. As always, careful hand picking in the vineyard and sorting of grapes as they were processed made sure that quality was not compromised.

CELLARING POTENTIAL

Exceptional vintage;
30+ years (from vintage).

REVIEWED November 2021