



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards



Serving Idea

Wild hare with field mushrooms.

Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage, drink now to 2025.

Hill of Grace 2005

Grape Variety

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

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 22 March-17 April | Alcohol: 14.5% | pH: 3.5 | Acidity: 6.3g/L

Maturation

Matured in new French (65%) and American (35%) hogsheads for 21 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

Over 165 years ago Johann Christian Henschke came from Silesia to settle and farm in the Eden Valley region. By the time third-generation Paul Alfred Henschke took over the reins in 1914, the famous Hill of Grace shiraz 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. Hill of Grace is a unique delineated single historic vineyard. The vineyard lies opposite a beautiful old Lutheran Church, built of local field stone, which was euphoniously named Gnadenberg, meaning Hill of Grace.

Cyril Henschke, the fourth generation, made the first single-vineyard wine from these vines in 1958. The original vines are now over 145 years old. The handpicked grapes are vinified in traditional open-top fermenters.

Vintage Description

Vintage 2005 was early, warm, quick, fantastic quality with good yields - and exhausting. Above average winter rains led into a beautiful spring, with some early November frosts but good flowering weather in late November and early December. Summer was wet and wild, with an amazing roller-coaster of weekly thunderstorms that helped maintain good subsoil moisture. Rains in January were followed by a dry February, and the dry weather continued right through the autumn. Warmer than usual autumnal weather caused an early, compact harvest of above average yields. The late Indian summer lasted into May, well after all the fruit was harvested, at maturity figures, flavour and colour not seen before the 2002 vintage. The quality of the 2005 vintage is sure to be ranked as one of the best on record, after 2002, with all varieties showing strongly. Once again the signature varieties for Eden Valley, ie, riesling and shiraz, performed brilliantly.

Wine Description

Deep crimson with vibrant hues. Complex aromas of blackberry, mulberry and plum with exotic Asian spices, tar, anise and cedar. The sweet, fleshy palate is soft and lush with excellent structure and depth finishing with fine, velvety, mature tannins, great length and intensity.