



Henschke,
 `Johann's Garden` Barossa Valley
 Grenache/Mataro/Shiraz 2019
 Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia



PRODUCER

The Henschke family have been making wine at their estate in the Eden Valley since 1868. Fifth-generation winemaker Stephen Henschke took over running the winery in 1979. Together with his viticulturist wife Prue, they have taken their two single vineyards, Hill of Grace and Mount Edelstone, and transformed them into two of Australia's most sought-after wines. Through a combination of great viticulture from Prue, who is at the forefront of re-introducing native plants into their vineyards to improve biodiversity, and winemaking from Stephen, they have built upon their inheritance and turned this traditional producer into one that is celebrated all around the world.

VINEYARDS

Named as a tribute to the early German Silesian pioneers of the Barossa, many of whom carried the first name of Johann. Barossa growers traditionally referred to their vineyard as their 'garden', from the German 'weingarten'. Their traditions and culture have survived to this day, including the winemaking techniques used in this Grenache-led blend. This wine was first made in 1996 from low-yielding parcels of Grenache, Mataro and Shiraz, although this blend changes from vintage to vintage. In 2019, fruit came from a combination of gnarled, dry-grown bush and trellised vines, all at least 70 years old, on limestone soils from selected vineyards in the Barossa Valley.

VINTAGE

Vintage 2019 shaped up to be a challenging one, with below-average yields, however the quality was very high, with beautiful expressions of varietal character and generally good balance and structure. A dry winter, spring and summer with warmer than average temperatures in January and February led to the advancement of maturity of all grape varieties in the Barossa Valley and an early onset of vintage.

VINIFICATION

Each parcel was hand picked separately and remained so throughout the vinification process. Once in the winery, the best grapes were selected using a sorting table, before being destemmed and lightly crushed, either into small concrete or stainless steel open-top fermenters. A submerged cap was performed in order to manage a slow tannin extraction. Punch-downs and pump-overs were performed twice daily, allowing the liquid to be cooled via a heat-exchanger, with air being introduced on the return to the fermenter. After 7-10 days, the fermentations were gently pressed to barrel with the primary fermentation finishing in seasoned French oak barriques and hogshead barrels. The wine matured for 10 months before blending and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

This wine is bright ruby in colour, with complex aromas of ripe blue plum, blueberry, raspberry and violets. There are notes of charcuterie, nutmeg and black pepper, with undertones of lemongrass and turmeric. A rich and supple medium-bodied palate with flavours of raspberry and baked plum. Fine-grained tannins complement the long, polished finish.

AWARDS

Grape Varieties	80% Grenache 20% Mataro
Winemaker	Stephen Henschke
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	14.5%
Acidity	6.36g/L
Wine pH	3.4
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Sustainable, Vegetarian, Practising Biodynamic, Practising Organic, Vegan

The Wine Merchant Top 100 2022, Top 100
Decanter World Wine Awards 2022, Silver