

Henschke,

`Johann's Garden` Barossa Valley Grenache/Mataro 2020

Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia



Grape Varieties	80% Grenache 20% Mataro
Winemaker	Stephen Henschke
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	14.5%
Residual Sugar	0.6g/L
Acidity	4.9g/L
Wine pH	3.59
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Practising Biodynamic, Practising Organic, Vegan

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

The Barossa Valley has an average elevation of 274m, which is considerably lower than the Eden Valley's 400-500m. The Barossa Valley region covers a vast area of particularly fertile soil, eroded into it from the Barossa Range. This can be seen by the concentration of vineyards compared to the more isolated vineyards of the Eden Valley region. The Barossa Valley has generally consistent, warm temperatures day and night which create ideal ripening conditions for the fruit and bring harvest dates many weeks earlier than the higher areas in the more continental climate of the Eden Valley. Annual rainfall is approximately 550mm, providing drier conditions than the Eden Valley. Soils vary from grey and brown clays to red-brown earths and yellow sands.

VINTAGE

The 2020 vintage will be remembered for excellent quality wines from the Eden Valley, Barossa Valley and Adelaide Hills, albeit a meagre production due to reduced yields caused by a number of poor conditions at flowering and the extremely dry winter, spring and summer of 2019/2020. The 2019 winter and spring resulted in the driest start to the growing season ever, in line with 1939 and 1961. Growth in early spring was weaker due to a hotter than average October. November was a troubling month with some frosty, wet and windy conditions during flowering. Bunch size was normal, although with few berries having set, it resulted in very open clusters. Significant heatwaves from mid-December to the end of January reduced shoot growth and berry size, however at the end of the month around 40mm of rain fell, alleviating the stress just before veraison. This was followed by a cool ripening period in February with just three days over 30°C. Vintage was early, beginning in late February and finishing by early April. The grapes ripened in near perfect conditions, resulting in optimal and excellent wine quality.

VINIFICATION

Upon arrival at the winery, the Grenache and Mataro were vinified separately before spending 10 months maturing in French hogsheads prior to bottling and blending.

TASTING NOTES

Garnet in colour, this wine opens with vibrant aromas of raspberry compote, redcurrant, plum and black cherry. The palate is juicy and plush with spiced cherry and raspberry notes, carried by velvety tannins and well balanced acidity.

AWARDS

International Wine Challenge 2023, Silver