

Henschke,

'The Wheelwright' Eden Valley Shiraz 2021

Eden Valley, South Australia, Australia

HENSCHKE



Grape Varieties	100% Shiraz
Winemaker	Stephen Henschke
Closure	Stelvin Lux
ABV	14.5%
Acidity	6.4g/L
Wine pH	3.47
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Practising Biodynamic, Practising Organic

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 Wheelwright pays tribute to the founding father of the Henschke winery and vineyards, winemaker Johann Christian Henschke. He was among the first generation of the early German Silesian pioneers of South Australia, and established the family winery in 1868. Johann Christian arrived as a skilled stonemason and wheelwright and planted his first vineyards in the high country of the Eden Valley. This wine is produced from old vine shiraz planted in 1968, by fourth-generation Cyril Henschke. Managed with organic and biodynamic practices, the 1.6 hectare The Wheelwright vineyard sits at an elevation of 470 metres with a north through west to south aspect. Soils are sandy loam over clay.

VINTAGE

The 2021 vintage will be remembered as a standout of the decade. Despite a challenging start to the season involving frost damage and strong winds, the vines enjoyed perfectly timed rain around veraison and remained disease free. The summer was the coolest on record for 19 years but a late warm burst in autumn provided the ideal ripening conditions for red varieties ahead of harvest. 2021 came with many challenges but will be remembered for complex wines with exceptional varietal expression, balance and purity.

VINIFICATION

The fruit was handpicked between 13th and 16th April. The grapes were destemmed and lightly crushed into small, concrete, open-top fermenters. A submerged cap was performed in order to manage a slow tannin extraction. The fermentations were controlled with pump-overs being performed twice daily. After 7-10 days, the wine was gently pressed to barrel with the primary fermentation finishing in 82% French and 18% American oak hogshead barrels (10% new and 90% seasoned). The wine was matured in barrel for 18 months before blending and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Deep crimson with violet hues. Captivating raspberry, plum and blackberry are entwined with high-toned, heady garrigue herbs, black peppercorns, nutmeg and wild lavender. A vibrant core of mulberry and blueberry fruit is supported by white pepper and violets, bright acidity, a plush texture and powerful but fine-grained tannins that carry through to a long, spicy finish.

LIBERTY WINES