



HENSCHKE

Exceptional wines from outstanding vineyards



Lenswood Abbotts Prayer 2005

Grape Variety

64% merlot and 36% cabernet sauvignon grown at Lenswood in the Adelaide Hills.

Technical Details

Harvest Date: 20–28 April | *Alcohol:* 14% | *pH:* 3.58 | *Acidity:* 5.7g/L

Maturation

Matured in 60% new, 40% used French hogsheads for 16 months prior to blending and bottling.

Background

Stephen and Prue Henschke, fifth-generation winemakers at the family cellars at Keyneton, selected Lenswood in 1981 as a new vineyard site, just 50km from their ancient Mount Edelstone and Hill of Grace vineyards. At 550m, the Lenswood vineyard slopes offer not only beautiful views over the older vine country, but also higher rainfall and humidity at the right time of the year, cooler temperatures to retain natural acidity, and still enough sunshine to fully ripen the grapes. The Abbotts Prayer label links together the history, religion and pioneers of this mountainous region. This property along Coldstore Road, including the vineyard, was pioneered by T N Mitchell, the first settler, and was originally known as Abbotts Flat. Vineyards were previously established in this area in the late 1800s.

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

Very deep crimson in colour. Sweet, spicy aromas of violets, forest hints, dusty mulberries and blueberries with cedar and fruit cake. A lush, concentrated, sweet ripe palate layered with great texture and fruit flavours; intense and complex. Excellent depth and structure, fine-grained tannins and a very long finish.

Serving Idea

Asian salad of seared pigeon breast.

Cellaring Potential

Exceptional vintage, drink now to 2015.

CA HENSCHKE & CO

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