

Geoff Merrill Wines



2005 Henley Shiraz

THE NAME

"Henley is named in honour of my Grandfather, who passed away at the ripe old age of 102. This wine is the best of the best of our McLaren Vale Shiraz and only 10 barrels of the vintage are set aside for Henley." - Geoff Merrill

VINTAGE INFORMATION

Overall we regard 2005 as a very good vintage. Abundant winter rains ensured adequate soil moisture for the summer ripening period ahead. This meant very healthy vines with good canopies.

The summer turned out to be reasonably mild, which meant optimal ripeness temperatures brought the harvest forward by about two weeks. Red wines from 2005 vintage typically show very good varietal characters with well balanced tannins and acid.

WINEMAKERS NOTES

The colour shows wonderful depth and intensity for its age. The aroma is generous and inviting and very McLaren Vale with bright berry fruits marrying well with the toasty French oak.

The palate is full flavoured yet shows restraint. Fine powerful tannins come forward as the ripe fruit flavours subside revealing the distinctive and elegant structure beneath.

After approx. 15 months in oak Geoff and Scott take part in the sensory evaluation of each barrel to determine which ones make the Henley grade.

Once the barrels are determined, the blend is carefully made in the cellar and refilled into the very best French oak barrels we have for further maturation.

WINEMAKERS

Geoff Merrill & Scott Heidrich

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Variety: Shiraz

Oak Treatment: 34 months in new French oak hogsheads.

Region: McLaren Vale

Harvest Date: April 2005

Alc: 14.5%, **pH:** 3.43, **TA:** 6.65 g/L, **RS:** 2.0 g/L