

Henschke

A legendary single-vineyard Shiraz, Mount Edelstone 2018 shows the depth of old vines with layers of dark fruit, spice, and savoury elegance that define Eden Valley.

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Est. 1868



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

Mount Edelstone Shiraz 2021

Eden Valley, Australia

Region and Vineyards

Eden Valley lies within the Barossa zone of South Australia, but at higher elevations than the Barossa floor, typically between 400 and 600 metres. The cooler climate and rocky soils yield Shiraz that is **spicier, more elegant, and finely structured** than its Barossa Valley counterpart .

The Mount Edelstone vineyard was planted in **1912**, making it one of the oldest single-vineyard Shiraz sites in Australia. Dry-farmed and ungrafted, these centenarian vines produce naturally low yields of around 2 tonnes per hectare, resulting in grapes of **exceptional concentration**. The vineyard's deep sandy loam over clay soils, combined with Eden Valley's cooler conditions, shape wines of remarkable freshness, **peppery lift**, and age-worthy balance .

Winemaking

The 2018 vintage benefited from an **early, warm and dry growing season**, allowing excellent fruit set and ripeness. Grapes were hand-harvested from the historic vineyard, then vinified in small open-top fermenters with gentle hand-plunging to extract colour and tannins. Fermentation was followed by a period of skin contact for added depth and texture.

The wine was matured in a mix of **French and American oak hogsheads (77% French, 23% American), 29% new**, for 18 months. This élevage contributed savoury spice, subtle smoky notes, and structure while ensuring the fruit remained at the forefront. Bottling was completed under Vinolok glass closure to preserve purity and longevity.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep crimson with a dark ruby core and purple hues.
- **Aroma:** Intense black fruits — blackberry, plum, mulberry — layered with black olive tapenade, smoked charcuterie, forest herbs, spearmint, and exotic spice. Subtle cedar and dark chocolate emerge with aeration.
- **Palate:** Concentrated yet graceful, showing brooding black fruits, fine-grained tannins, and savoury complexity. Hints of cured meat, olive, and mint carry into a **long, persistent finish** framed by vibrant acidity.

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Did you know?

The word *Edelstone* derives from the German for **"noble stone"**, a reference to both the vineyard's geology and the German immigrants who settled the Eden Valley in the 19th century. The Henschke family has bottled Mount Edelstone as a single-vineyard wine since **1952**, making it one of Australia's longest-standing vineyard-designated wines .

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Chargrilled venison loin:** The wine's savoury notes and structured tannins harmonise with game's earthy depth.
- **Slow-cooked lamb shoulder with rosemary:** Its herbal and smoky nuances echo the dish's flavours.
- **Duck breast with blackberry reduction:** Dark fruit notes in the wine align beautifully with berry accents in the sauce.
- **Aged Comté or Manchego:** The wine's complexity and savoury character pair well with nutty, firm cheeses.

98 James Halliday

James Halliday (JH) : 98 Points (2018)

I lived on the property that lies between the Mount Edelstone and Hill of Grace vineyards for eight years. My god it's a beautiful part of the world. Planted in 1912 by George Fife Angus and purchased by Cyril Henschke in 1974, though it had been bottled as a single-vineyard wine since 1952. Picture perfect blackberry and blackcurrant fruits, shades of mixed spice, purple floral tones, earth, licorice, rosehip and crushed quartz. A gorgeous expression of site, pure with long, ripe tannins, lacy mineral-laden acidity providing clarity and drive and a finish that sails on for some time before finishing chalky and sustained.

98 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 98 Points (2018)

First bottled in 1952 by Stephen Henschke's father Cyril, this reknowned cuvée is likely Australia's longest consecutively produced single-site wine, from a vineyard planted in 1912. A gem of a old-vine wine in every sense (it is named for the yellow opals once found in the area), it is spectacular in this vintage. The mouthfeel is seductive and supple, carrying trademark savoury bay leaf, sage and peppercorn notes that integrate beautifully into ripe, black bramble and blood plum flavours. Structure for long ageing is assured by firm yet velvety tannins and fresh acidity. A gorgeous, opulent, complex wine that, on several tastings over three days, I preferred to Hill of Grace.

97 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2018)

Serious, fulfilling nose but super elegant, with subtle spices, sage, spearmint, heather, ink, dark chocolate, red-berry fruit and blueberries. A refreshing citrus note, reminiscent of bergamot. Almost plush but nothing heavy here, instead, this is quite ethereal with agility on the palate with even, ultra-fine tannins that are beguilingly sweet.