

Heggies

Heggies Vineyard Merlot 2001

The Heggies Vineyard was purchased in 1971 by Wyndham Hill Smith from his great friend, Colin Heggie. The label portrays Colin astride his horse Jack at sunset, surveying the first plantings in the fledgling vineyard.

Heggies is a single vineyard in Eden Valley where the 'terroir' is encouraged to produce the distinctive Heggies wine styles. The soil is a thin layer of grey sandy loam over clay and decomposed rock - and vines compete vigorously for moisture and nutrient. An altitude of 550 m above sea level, 787 mm of annual rain, plus innovative viticultural practises produce wines of full flavour and balance.



WINEMAKING / VITICULTURE

Conditions for 2001 vintage were dry and warm during the growing season; however, the dams at Heggies had sufficient water to tide the fruit through to harvest, leading to rich, intensely flavoured, full bodied grapes.

Heggies vineyard is harvested in small lots, with the narrow section hand harvested and the wider rows machine harvested. Some wine is left for long maturation on skins, and other parcels are run to barrels where fermentation is completed in oak. The integrity of each parcel is maintained during fermentation and barrel maturation until final selection from barrel to blending.

Heggies Vineyard Merlot 2001 is a medium to full depth, garnet red. A complex nose shows the primary fruit notes of cherries and mulberries, together with matured nuances of cedar and nutmeg. A medium bodied palate shows a delightful integration of fruit, oak and tannin. This wine has excellent presence and structure with a long velvet finish.

Drinking very well now and with careful cellaring, will continue to improve for several years.

WINEMAKERS COMMENTS

"Heggies Vineyard is tremendously challenging and not an easy vineyard to manage. Each variety planted at Heggies undergoes its own programme of care according to its position in the vineyard. Working with the natural surroundings rather than against them is the driving force, with every factor taken into consideration, to try and capture the flavour and balance of the grapes in their purest essence. We spend a lot of time working and experimenting in the vineyard, aiming to develop wines that have their own varietal characteristics and personality."

Peter Gambetta, Heggies Vineyard Winemaker

VINTAGE INFORMATION

Vintage	2001
Region	Eden Valley
Winemaker	Peter Gambetta
Harvested	2-19 April 2001
Oak Treatment	Matured for 12 months in 65% new Allier & Troncais hogsheads, balance in older French hogsheads
Alc/Vol	14.5%
Total Acid	6.4 g/L
pH	3.38
Cellaring	now to 5-7 years

