

1692  
Spier

**SPIER CREATIVE BLOCK 3 2014**  
Shiraz 93%, Mourvèdre 4 %, Viognier 3%

**WINEMAKER:**

Johan Jordaan

**ORIGIN**

Coastal regions – specifically Groenekloof and Stellenbosch.

**TERROIR:**

Decomposed granite with clay subsoil from the Stellenbosch and Groenekloof (Darling) regions situated between 7 – 20 km from the cold Atlantic Ocean.

**VINEYARD AND CLIMATE CONDITIONS:**

The winter of 2013 experienced unusually high rain which restored soil water reservoirs. This, followed by a cool spring with low wind conditions led to even budding and resulted in even ripeness. Careful foliage management exposed the grapes to more sun to enhance skin thickness for higher extraction and intensity. Selecting the right picking dates was crucial to achieve optimal ripening and balance in the sugar-to-acid ratio, thereby promising harmonious flavours at lower sugar levels.

**WINEMAKING:**

Grapes were hand-harvested and pre-cooled prior to de-stemming and hand-sorting to remove green, pink and raisin berries. Fermentation took up to two weeks. Malolactic fermentation and maturation took place in 90% French and 10% American oak 300l barrels for 18 months of which 50% was first fill and the balance, second fill. The wines are made individually to address each varietal's need for undivided attention and to ensure that the varietal and site expression is forthcoming. Selective tasting from the barrels determined the composition of the blend. The expert blending of this Rhône-style blend has ensured harmony amongst the three varietals and the ultimate balance between fruit, palate volume, oak extract and tannin.

**ANALYSIS:**

Alc:	14.72 % Vol	TA:	5.9 g/L
RS:	4.4 g/L	pH:	3.50

**APPEARANCE:**

Deep ruby red with a purple rim.

**TASTING NOTE:**

Subtle perfumed notes of violets, pomegranate and mulberry, followed by spicy flavours of black pepper and coriander. A silky, rich mid-palate complemented with concentration of fruit and dense, silky tannins.

**SERVE WITH:**

Serve with smoked pork belly or mildly spicy vegetable-based Indian-style curry.

