

UNFILTERED MERLOT 2014



Handcrafted to unlock the natural style inherent in the best grapes from select parcels of vines grown in the Cape Floral Kingdom, these elegant wines capture the highly sought-after qualities of varietal character and terroir. These wines are not pressured by filtration – letting gravity do the work - resulting in a rich, complex taste that abounds with fruit and flavour.

TERROIR

Climate, soil, altitude and slope orientation are selected to capture as much varietal character as possible. Climate is mild with south and east-facing slopes offering natural protection against late afternoon sun. Cooling breezes from the Atlantic Ocean ensure rich, slow growing crops. The soil is predominantly medium textured and well-drained with good water holding capacity.

THE VINEYARDS

Viticulturist: Annelie Viljoen

The grapes were selected from 2 vineyard blocks in Stellenbosch Kloof, planted in 2000. The clone is MO348 grafted on Richter 110 rootstock which is known for excellent resistance to dry conditions. The vines are in balance with the terroir and deliver between 8 and 9 tons/ha. The vineyards are situated on a cooler southern slope and irrigation is only supplementary in the late season. Pest and disease control was implemented according to South African subjective IPW standards.

FOOD PAIRING

This succulent Merlot is perfect with Parma ham, roast lamb kebabs and a hearty oxtail meal. It is an ideal accompaniment to robust Italian dishes.

THE WINEMAKING

Cellarmaster: Wim Truter

Winemaker: Pieter Badenhorst

Grapes were handpicked, crushed via a sorting table and fermented in stainless steel tanks and small open top fermenters. Flavour and tannin extraction was evaluated daily and managed by manual punch downs, pump-over and delestage. After fermentation, the wine was drained off with the hard pressings excluded. The wine was transferred to French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and left to mature for 18 months. Strict barrel selection ensures only the very best components are blended and bottled.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

This wine has a deep ruby colour with a bright hue. On the nose it shows multiple layers of dark fruit such as plum and blackcurrant with a hint of oak spice. The palate is plush, rich and velvety with well-balanced fruit and supple ripe tannins that lead to great ageing potential.

ANALYSIS

Alcohol	14.43 vol %
Residual Sugar	2.88 g/l
Total acidity	5.49 g/l
pH	3,51