

ESTATE: GABRIËLSKLOOF, BOTRIVIER
RANGE: THE LANDSCAPE SERIES
WINE: SYRAH ON SHALE
VINTAGE: 2016
VARIETIES: SINGLE VINEYARD, 100% SYRAH
PRODUCTION: 3500 BOTTLES



GABRIËLSKLOOF

The Landscape Series of wines is an authentic representation of our top vineyards, as well as a few old vine treasures. We wanted the labels to reflect this and decided to commission local artist and friend Niël Jonker to capture the spirit of our Overberg landscapes. The first two wines to be released as part of the series were the Magdalena and Elodie in August 2016, with the Cabernet Franc and the two single vineyard Syrahs released in June 2017.

“The idea behind having two Syrahs is to represent the two major soil types prevalent at Gabriëlskloof. Our sandstone vineyards produce a Syrah that is elegant and perfumed, while the heavier shale soils offer fruit concentration and depth.” Peter-Allan Finlayson

VINTAGE

The 2016 vintage will be remembered as one of the driest and hottest, and consequently one of the earliest in the history of South African wine. We were able to irrigate our vines at precisely the right moments, which was crucial to achieving full ripeness. Gabriëlskloof was not as affected by the drought, with our dams just full enough to service our 68ha of vines. Yields were markedly down, and the berries were smaller – leading to gentler handling and extraction than usual.

VINEYARD NOTES

The fruit comes from a single Bokkeveld shale site on the Gabriëlskloof property. A high clay component allows for excellent water retention and a resultant riper fruit profile in the wine. Another factor that has a significant influence on our terroir is wind, and this vineyard site faces the full brunt of the south-easterly wind, providing just enough stress for the vines to show their true colours.

WINEMAKING

The fruit was hand-picked into small crates and transferred directly into our cold room where it remained overnight. About 60% of the crop was destemmed with the remaining 40% left as whole clusters. The wine was fermented wild and aged in a combination of 225L and 500L barrels for 18 months, with 30% new French Oak used.

TASTING NOTE

Plush and spicy, the Syrah on Shale is the extrovert of the Landscape Syrah pair, showing florals, dark red cherries, fynbos and tapenade on the nose. Intricately balanced, the palate is pure fruit, fresh acidity and fine tannins, making for a memorably long finish.

AGEING POTENTIAL

Delicious now and into 2024.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Alk: 14.7% | RS: 1.8g/l | pH: 3.46 | TA: 5.7g/l

