



Ladybird

VINEYARDS

STELLENBOSCH

CLAYPOT MERLOT 2017



WINEMAKER	FRANCOIS VAN ZYL
COMPOSITION	100% MERLOT ORGANIC
ORIGIN	SIMONSBERG - STELLENBOSCH
AGE OF VINES	12 – 18 YEARS ON AVERAGE
IRRIGATION	DRY LAND VINEYARDS & SUPPLEMENTAL
SOIL TYPE	OAKLEAF AND VILAFONTES
YIELD	4.8 TONS PER HECTARE
AGEING POTENTIAL	3 - 8 YEARS FROM
VOLUME	600 CASES (6X750ML)
FOOD PAIRING	BEEF FILLET STEAK SLOW-COOKED VENISON BRAISED BEEF SHORT RIBS

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The preceding winter was another dry one, with less rain than the previous one and warmer day and night temperatures. A warm spring resulted in early budding. Regular rain showers during flowering and berry set, with a high presence of pests. The picking season was very dry with limited water for irrigation, but with cooler night-time temperatures during February.

WINEMAKING / MATURATION

Hand harvested in the early mornings. If the season requires, the grapes are chilled for a pre cold soak in small stainless tanks. The grapes are then destemmed, and hand sorted. Some of the grapes will go into small open top fermentation tanks for a quick warm natural fermentation and some of it will go in closed tanks for an extended maceration. Sometimes up to 30 days after picking. This creates additional structure, as well as softening of the tannins. Malolactic fermentation is in stainless steel and the finished wine is left on the sediment for another 3 months before racking. The wine is then moved to 100 % new Francois Freres and Seguin Moreau barrels for 16 – 27 months ageing. No finings before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Deep dark red colour. Amazing aromatics of dark chocolate, blackberry, leather, and toasted oat. A full-bodied wine with a juicy palate, and ripe supple tannins. A well balanced, seductive Merlot from an amazing vintage.

ALC 14.95% | RS 2.5 G/L | TA 5.7 G/L | PH 3.54 | FREE SO₂ 6 MG/L | TOTAL SO₂ 1 27 MG/L | VA 0.7 G/L

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