



# Ladybird

VINEYARDS

STELLENBOSCH

## Claypot Merlot 2020



<b>WINEMAKER</b>	Francois van Zyl
<b>COMPOSITION</b>	100% Merlot Organic
<b>ORIGIN</b>	Simonsberg - Stellenbosch
<b>AGE OF VINES</b>	12 – 18 years on average
<b>IRRIGATION</b>	Dry land vineyards & supplemental
<b>SOIL TYPE</b>	Oakleaf and Vilafontes
<b>YIELD</b>	4.8 tons per hectare
<b>AGEING POTENTIAL</b>	3 - 8 years from
<b>VOLUME</b>	1400 cases (6x750ml)
<b>FOOD PAIRING</b>	Beef Fillet Steak   Slow-cooked venison   Braised beef short ribs

### VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The preceding winter had sufficient rain and cold units. Throughout the harvesting period the weather remained favourable, with relatively warm days, no significant heatwaves and cool night temperatures.

### 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 to create 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 24 months ageing. No finings before bottling.

### TASTING NOTES

A deep ruby red colour, with a beautiful perfume of wild cherry, plum, vanilla pod, dark chocolate and oak spice. The seductive, aromatic fruit profile is lifted by a bright acidity, and supported by plush, silky and integrated tannins.

ALC 14.74% | RS 3.4 g/l | TA 6.0g/l | pH 3.64 | FREE SO2 14 mg/l | TOTAL SO2 95 mg/l | VA 0.81 g/l

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