

## INDABA Merlot 2021



Winemakers	Bruwer Raats & Clayton Christians
Varietal Blend	90.2% Merlot, 9.8 Cabernet Sauvignon
Location	South Africa
Appellation	Western Cape
Alcohol Content	13.5%
TA	5.4 g/l
pH	3.63
RS	2.1 g/l

### Certifications

Integrated Production of Wines (IPW) Certified



### VINEYARDS:

Grapes were sourced from select vineyard sites in Stellenbosch and Paarl, planted in soils of decomposed granite, weathered shale, clay and sandy loam, with good moisture retention capacity. Most of the vineyards are located on southwest facing slopes, where they benefit from cool afternoon breezes off the Atlantic. The vines range in age from 15-23 years, with an average age of 17 years.

### VINTAGE:

Warmer periods during the latter part of the winter resulted in some un-even budding, flowering and fruit set. The moisture levels in the soils were satisfactory throughout the growing and ripening phase, and very little moisture stress was noticeable on the vines. The late start to the 2021 harvest was one of the distinguishing hallmarks of this vintage. The cooler growing conditions of the 2021 vintage produced elegant wines with softer tannin structures that will make them accessible and drinkable from an earlier age.

### VINIFICATION AND MATURATION:

The grapes were harvested in the early morning hours, de-stemmed and gently crushed. The wine was fermented in stainless steel tanks, with frequent gentle pumpovers to extract color and tannin from the skins. A small percentage of the wine underwent malolactic fermentation. Approximately (8%) of the blend was from the 2019 vintage, and was aged in 225 liter French oak barrels for up to 12 months.

### TASTING NOTES:

Carefully crafted in a fresh, clean style, this velvety Merlot offers appealing aromas and bright, succulent flavors of cherry, dark berry and plum backed by subtle mocha and herbal nuances and a delicate minerality.



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