

INDABA Merlot 2023



Winemakers	Bruwer Raats & Clayton Christians
Varietal Blend	100% Merlot
Location	South Africa
Appellation	Western Cape
Alcohol Content	13.5%
TA	5.87 g/l
pH	3.58
RS	1.7 g/l

Certifications

Integrated Production of Wines
(IPW) Certified

VINEYARDS:

The grapes are sourced from select vineyard sites in Stellenbosch and Paarl, which are 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 17-26 years, with an average age of 19 years.

VINTAGE:

The winter was cold and wet with good rainfall. Cool weather during the budding and flowering season resulted in a later than normal start to harvest. This gave the grapes longer hang time to reach optimal ripeness and develop an array and depth of favorable fruit flavors.

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 pumpovers to extract color and tannin from the skins. A small percentage of the wine underwent malolactic fermentation. A very small portion of the blend 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 balanced by a delicate minerality.



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