

EXCELSIOR

WINE ESTATE



Gondolier Merlot

This Merlot pays homage to Gondolier, one of the most renowned thoroughbred racehorses bred at Excelsior. Six months after receiving extensive physiotherapy on an injury to his hind leg that had left him completely lame, Gondolier won the 1985 Durban July, South Africa's most prestigious horse race. Today Gondolier is regarded as one of the legends of South African horse racing

This Merlot comes from vines planted on calcareous soils and represents the best Merlot produced on Excelsior. The vines are 10 years old and fully mature, thus providing us with grapes of concentration and complexity.

In The Cellar

The grapes were hand harvested at 25 degrees Balling, and then fermented for 6 days on the skins. The wine was aged in 10% new oak barrels for a period of 12 months.

Vintage Conditions

The 2018 vintage was well known as the drought vintage in the Western Cape. The Robertson region was no different and Excelsior only had 50% of the normal irrigation water available. Fortunately near perfect growing conditions were experienced. The days were warm and dry and cool night were experienced throughout the growing season resulting in a very healthy crop of very good quality. Some cultivars did experience the worst frost damage in 30 years, but this influenced quantity over quality.

Analysis

Alcohol 14.12%
Acidity 5.3g/l
pH 3.50
Residual Sugar 3.4g/l

Winemaker's notes

Deep ruby red colour with a black core. This wine is medium to full-bodied with aromas of blackcurrants, chocolate and earth. The wine has rich but exceptionally soft tannins and a long finish.

Food pairing by in-house chef

Biltong with basil pesto on bruschetta.

