

EXCELSIOR

WINE ESTATE



MERLOT

2021

Merlot is one of the more difficult grapes to grow successfully as the variety often displays green flavours and tannins. To minimize this, we follow very strict canopy management practices where we sucker (water shoot removal) twice, leaf pluck where necessary, and most importantly bunch thin. This ensures an adequately "open" canopy, so that most berries get sunlight exposure. This brings out the blackcurrant and red fruit characters of Merlot and avoids green tannins. Grapes are harvested by hand for greater quality control. The wines are immediately destemmed but not crushed. Fermentation takes place in stainless steel tanks for a period of 7 days at a temperature of between 28 and 32° Celsius. Aerated racking was done twice daily to ensure a clean ferment and soft tannins. The grapes are gently pressed in a bladder press, after which malo-lactic fermentation is completed in the tank.

AGING

45% of the total wine was aged in a mixture of French and American oak for a period of 6 months, whilst the remaining wine was aged in stainless steel tanks.

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The 2021 vintage was remarkable in many respects. The winter of 2020 was colder and wetter than we have experienced for a long time. This delayed budding by more than two weeks. The growing season was mild and dry, leading to a perfect berry set and subsequently one of the largest crops on record. Fortunately, the ripening period remained dry and cool. Great quality grapes were harvested in ideal, cool conditions.

Blend: Merlot 100%

ANALYSIS

Alcohol: 14.78%

Acidity: 5.7 g/l

pH: 3.54

Residual Sugar: 2.4 g/l

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The nose shows lovely ripe cherry characters, backed up by smoky coffee and spice notes. The palate is soft yet has a good structure for medium term ageing.

FOOD PAIRING BY IN-HOUSE CHEF

Spring rack of lamb, shank or leg of lamb served pink with fresh herbs or spring vegetables.



Produced and bottled by the De Wet Family over five Generations

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No alcohol may be sold to persons under the age of 18.