

Spice Route Flagship Merlot 2001

Colour: Deep crimson red.
Aroma: Dark chocolate and plums.
Palate: Firm structures sumptuous fruit.

variety : Merlot | 100% Merlot

winery : Spice Route Winery

winemaker : Charl du Plessis

wine of origin : Swartland

analysis : alc : 15.26 % vol rs : 2.2 g/l pH : 3.46 ta : 5.7 g/l
wooded

pack : Bottle **closure** : Cork

2000 - Silver International Wine & Spirits Competition 2002

2000 - Silver International Wine & Spirits Competition 2003

2001 - 90 points Wine Spectator 2003

4 ½ stars John Platter Guide

ageing : This wine will benefit from 3 to 5 years of cellaring.

in the vineyard : Flagship Merlot is harvested from cordon pruned vines at Rheeboksfontein in Malmesbury. The vineyard is on a South facing slope, at an altitude of about 150m above sea level. Sea breezes cool the area down at night. The soils on this farm are red ferric Oakleaf. These are suitable for dry land viticulture as they hold moisture well. The yield of these 10-year-old vines was 7 tons/ha in 2001. The fruit was very small and concentrated in colour and flavour.

about the harvest: Merlot was picked over a number of days at sugar levels of around 25 - 26° Balling in February 2001.

