

Cirrus 2005

Appearance: Bright, ruby red

Aroma: Hints of dark, ripe plum with jasmine and powerful floral aromas make the initial impression. A subdued spicy component is supported by vanilla undertones which is consistent with a well-balanced toasty bouquet from the oak.

Palate: The medium palate weight combined with rich, ripe tannins allow for an elegant, yet not overly powerful, wine. Soft tannins compliment the wonderful, polished full mouth-feel which is consistent with dried prune flavours. The long, slightly dry finish is pleasing.

Impression: I believe we succeeded in capturing the very essence of both France (Rhône) and South Africa (Stellenbosch) in this wine. Jean Engelbrecht

variety : Shiraz | 93.5% Shiraz, 6.5% Viognier

winery : Ernie Els Wines

winemaker : Louis Strydom

wine of origin : Western Cape

analysis : alc : 14 % vol rs : 4.5 g/l pH : 3.53 ta : 6.4 g/l

type : Red **style :** Dry **body :** Full **taste :** Fragrant **wooded**

pack : Bottle **size :** 0 **closure :** Cork

ageing : 5-7 years, following year of harvest, peaking after 6 years.

in the vineyard : As Jean Engelbrecht gained knowledge and an understanding of Californian wine, and in particular those from Napa, he was drawn to the wines of Silver Oak Cellars, their philosophy and the focused way they ran their operation. Drawing a parallel to his own family estate in South Africa, Rust en Vrede, he noted that both wineries focused on producing only red wine, and even further, concentrating on a specific wine Cabernet Sauvignon for Silver Oak and a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, and Merlot for Rust en Vrede.

Inevitably Jean met Ray Duncan, proprietor of Silver Oak, and a friendship was formed which included visits to both continents. The synergy that developed between the two families, their mutual love for wine, and the challenge to produce a wine together, led to the formation of The Cirrus Wine Company. In 2004 Jean's longtime friend and business partner, Ernie Els, became part of this exciting venture that was now formed between the three families.

As the wine was to be produced in South Africa, it was a natural decision to produce a Syrah. The view taken by the partners was one of starting off small, and to ensure that the venture was laying a strong and solid foundation for the future. The maiden vintage of this wine was in 2003. This 2004 vintage represents everything this wine stands for and more. This wine is the expression of the long-term view between three families that believe wine, above all should bring people together.

