

Verdun Merlot 1997

A distinctive Merlot, which has complex and forthcoming aromas of plums, red berries and spices. Maturation in French Oak adds the final dimension to this mouthfilling, complex and very elegant wine. The wine offers enjoyment now but will reward with at least five or more years cellaring.

variety : Merlot | Merlot

winery : Asara Wine Estate and Hotel

winemaker : Marius Lategan

wine of origin :

analysis : alc : 13.0 % vol rs : 3.3 g/l pH : 3.56 ta : 6.01 g/l

ageing : 5 - 8 Years

in the cellar : The first premium red wine produced under Verdun's new ownership. The area of Vlotenburg, where Verdun is situated, has a proud history of fine red wines. To compliment this tradition our Merlot has been placed on optimal terrior to enhance quality.

Wines are pruned back to reduce the harvest and increase the concentration of fruit in the berries. Fruit is picked healthy and at optimal ripeness by hand. Bunches were destalked but not crushed to produce a slower gentler fermentation which promotes fruit flavours. Maturation took place in new oak 90 % French and 10 % American for a period of 13 to 15 months.

Extensive blending trials were conducted to ensure the best quality product was bottled. This blend included 15% tank fermented Merlot, 65 % new French oak, 10% American oak and 10% wood fermented Cabernet Sauvignon.

