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Bellingham Dragon's Lair 2006

The age old legend of the valiant St Georges who defeated the rancorous dragon that guarded a captive fair maiden in its fearful lair in the Groot Drakenstein Mountains is still recounted in the valley of Franschhoek. Centuries later, Bellingham was born in this very valley that is now famous for wine. The Legends range captures the mystery and enchantment of this fabled era.

Deep ruby with a youthful strawberry edge. Pronounced layers of black berry, ripe cherry, smoke and spice leading to a succulent full bodied entry with delicious ripe fruit intensity supported by silky tannins and well integrated oak.

Best enjoyed at 16° C and will benefit by decanting an hour before drinking.



variety : Shiraz | 84% Shiraz 11% Mourvèdre 5% Viognier
winery : Bellingham Wines
winemaker : Niel Groenewald
wine of origin : Coastal
analysis : **alc :** 15.0 % vol **rs :** 4.0 g/l **pH :** 3.41 **ta :** 5.92 g/l
type : Red **wooded**
pack : Bottle **closure :** Cork

ageing : Assertive yet approachable already promising intriguing secondary maturation characteristics and further complexity and integration for up to 10 years in a temperature controlled cellar.

in the vineyard : Age of Vines: Between 10 and 15 years old.
Climate: Cool growing season with long, slow ripening period.
Soils: Predominantly Shale

about the harvest: Varietals were harvested separately by hand at an average ripeness of between 24° and 26° B. The average yield was 7-8 tons/ha.

in the cellar : Varietals were fermented separately in stainless steel tanks. Malolactic fermentation took place in barrel. 50% new wood and 50% second fill French oak barrels were used. Varietals were blended together and received further wood maturation in oak barrels for 18 months.