

Radford Dale Merlot 2005

In a land where this varietal often plays second or third fiddle, we've unashamedly made this pure Merlot in an intense, deep and yet spontaneous style. Ripe, juicy blueberry flavours firmly but ripely connected in a web of subtle tannins, finishing with a bright mineral ring. Eager yet restrained. Proof that good Merlot has a home in the Cape.

variety : Merlot | 100% Merlot

winery : The Winery of Good Hope

winemaker : Team Effort

wine of origin : Stellenbosch

analysis : alc : 14 % vol rs : 1.8 g/l pH : 3.69 ta : 5 g/l

type : Red **style :** Dry **wooded**

pack : Bottle **closure :** Cork

in the vineyard : Equally split between 4 parcels. 2 on the Helderberg Mountain overlooking False Bay, the others in Devon Valley on elevated, steep west and south-west facing slopes - both in immediate maritime areas. The soils consist of variations of decomposed granites. The youngest parcel is 10 years old, the oldest almost 20.

2005 was a hot and dry summer. Good canopy management was important to ensure that the grapes did not suffer from sunburn or raisining, whilst retaining natural acidity and keeping sugars from spiraling.

about the harvest: All grapes hand-picked.

