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Spier Discover Merlot 2008

Ripe red berry aromas follow through to a juicy, velvety-smooth palate with a strong savoury character. This well-structured wine shows a good balance between tannin and fruit.

Serve with standing rack of lamb rib and hassle-back potatoes.

variety : Merlot | 100% Merlot
winery : Spier Wine Farm
winemaker : Anton Swarts and Frans Smit
wine of origin : Western Cape
analysis : **alc :** 14.5 % vol **rs :** 4-5 g/l **pH :** 3.65 **ta :** 5.4 g/l
type : Red **style :** Dry **taste :** Fruity
pack : Bottle **closure :** Cork

ageing : Enjoy now or within 2 years from harvest.

in the vineyard :
Climate:
Average Temperature: Winter: 17ºC; Summer 25ºC
Annual rainfall: 220 mm
Proximity to ocean: 80 km

Soil:
Alluvial, Silty Dundee, Tukulu, Oakleaf and Riverbed

Vineyard:
Bushvines and trellised vines aged 10-20 years yielded the grapes for this wine. The vineyards received supplementary drip irrigation and produced 8-15 tons per hectare.

about the harvest: Grapes were handpicked at optimum ripeness.

in the cellar : After harvesting the grapes were sorted, de-stemmed and gently crushed. Cold maceration took place at 10-12ºC prior to fermentation in stainless steel tanks. Daily pump-overs were conducted during fermentation to extract further colour and flavour. Wines showing well-preserved fruit were chosen for blending and fining. Sterile bottling took place after 6 months of maturation and integration.

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