

## Excelsior Gondolier Merlot 2007

Deep ruby red colour with a black core. This wine is medium to full-bodied with aromas of blackcurrants, chocolate and earth. The wine has rich but exceptionally soft tannins and a long finish. Calling Card: Very rich and soft.

This wine is perfect with grilled meats, hearty pastas, or simply enjoy with good friends.

**variety :** Merlot | 100% Merlot

**winery :** Excelsior Wine Estate

**winemaker :** Johan Stemmet

**wine of origin :**

**analysis :** alc : 14.56 % vol   rs : 2.5 g/l   pH : 3.52   ta : 5.5 g/l   so2 : 44 mg/l   fso2 : 9 mg/l

**type :** Red   **style :** Dry   **body :** Medium   **taste :** Fruity   **wooded**

**pack :** Bottle   **closure :** Cork

**ageing :** Suitable for cellaring for up to 5 years. It is recommended that the wine be decanted prior to serving.

### **in the vineyard : The Story**

This Merlot pays homage to Gondolier, one of the most renowned thoroughbred racehorses bred at Excelsior. Six months after receiving extensive physiotherapy on an injury to his hind leg that had left him completely lame, Gondolier won the 1985 Durban July, South Africa's most prestigious horse race. Today Gondolier is regarded as one of the legends of South African horse racing.

### **Vineyard**

This Merlot comes from vines planted on calcareous soils and represent the best Merlot produced on Excelsior.

**in the cellar :** The wine was aged in 10% new oak barrels for a period of 12 months.

