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Arabella Shiraz 2009

Deep burgandy red in colour with inviting aromas of vanilla and mocha. The palate rewards with lingering flavours of liquorice and ripe black cherries, supported by soft spicy tannins.



variety : Shiraz | 100% Shiraz
winery : Arabella Wines
winemaker : Stephen de Wet
wine of origin : Robertson
analysis : **alc :** 14.5 % vol **rs :** 3.7 g/l **pH :** 3.66 **ta :** 5.6 g/l **va :** 0.40 g/l **so2 :** 46 mg/l **fso2 :** 30 mg/l
type : Red **taste :** Fragrant **wooded**
pack : Bottle **closure :** Screwcap

in the vineyard : Soil Types
The vineyards are planted on the floor of what was, many millions of years ago, a great inland lake. Evidence of this lake can be seen in the massive water washed boulders. As the rainfall declined the lake dried up leaving a deposit of calcareous silt many meters thick. The drying of the soil and the effect of the elements cured the top layer of this calcareous silt into rock hard calcium carbonate. At first it was thought that these soils were only suitable for pastures as the roots of orchards and vineyards could not penetrate the calcium carbonate. The era of the big machine, which could rip through the hard calcium carbonate to a depth of 1.5 meters to access the calcareous silt underneath, changed this perception. Vineyards now flourish and produce wonderful wine where there once was arid veldt. A near perfect viticultural terroir has been created where man can manipulate conditions as he sees fit.

Clonal / Rootstock Selection
One clone is used, SH1 - South African selection that delivery one of the best wines. It has looser punches although the berries are bigger and gives great spicy characteristics.

Two rootstocks are used, 101-14 and Richter 110. Some of the older vines were planted with 101-14, but it has become apparent that our soils are more suited to Richter 110. The problem with 101-14 is that it has a shallow root structure and is more prone to suffer from water stress at the critical ripening periods. Conversely, Richter 110 has a stronger root structure which enables us to better control deficit water management in the period before veraison.

Growing Season Growing Data (October – April)
Rainfall: 333.7mm
Mean Maximum Temperatures: 24.95°C
Mean Minimum Temperatures: 10.27°C
Vine Age: 3-25 years
Pruning Regime: Cordon/Spur Pruned, Vertical Shoot Positioning

about the harvest: Syrah is picked between 14 March and 30 March.
Yield Per Vine: (weighted average) 3 kg
Yield Per HA: (weighted average) 10 tonnes
Maturity Analysis at Harvest (weighted averages): Brix 25°-26°

in the cellar : Once crushed the wine is pumped into fermentation tanks. Tailored pump overs are done twice daily during fermentation to obtain delicate fruit tannins and maximize flavours and colour extraction. Wine and skins then pumped into an airbag press with a central inflatable membrane. The entire outer cylinder of the press has drainage holes to speed up the process of pressing and increases the

amount of juice extracted. Following the gentle pressing, the wine underwent malolactic fermentation in tanks. Wine is then put on French Oak for about 8-10 months to add softness and complexity to the wine.