

Excelsior Gondolier Merlot 2008

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. It is recommended that the wine be decanted prior to serving.

variety : Merlot | 100% Merlot

winery : Excelsior Wine Estate

winemaker : Johan Stemmet

wine of origin : Ashton

analysis : alc : 14.00 % vol rs : 3.1 g/l pH : 3.36 ta : 5.7 g/l so2 : 74 mg/l fso2 : 19 mg/l

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

pack : Bottle **closure** : Cork

ageing : Suitable for cellaring for up to 5 years.

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.

