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Fairview The Beacon Shiraz 2008

From a single Paarl vineyard is the proverbial iron fist in a velvet glove. Nuanced and complex with spicy pepper and violets over liquorice and juicy black fruit. Gentle and seamlessly lithe yet powerful, dark and dense.



variety : Shiraz | 100% Shiraz
winery : Fairview Wines
winemaker : Anthony de Jager
wine of origin : Paarl
analysis : **alc :** 15.0 % vol **rs :** 4.4 g/l **pH :** 3.42 **ta :** 5.9 g/l
type : Red **style :** Dry **wooded**
pack : Bottle **closure :** Cork

International Wine Challenge 2012 - Bronze Medal

in the vineyard : This dry farmed vineyard was planted in 1995, using Shiraz clone SH9A, grafted onto rootstock R110. The deep Glenrosa soil type, retains soil moisture well, and ripens the crop early without stressing, during our long hot summers. Planted in a north-westerly facing rocky outcrop, the vines are pruned to a "bosstok " or bush vine. Depending on the growth, the vine is pruned to between 3 and 5 bearers per vine. Summer canopy management including a topping, which will reduce wind damage and green cropping at 80% veraison to ensure even ripening. The vineyard is regularly visited during the ripening period and tested by tasting, visual and analytical examination to determine exact picking date.

At 33° 44' latitude 18° 48' longitude, the surveyor general's trigonometric Beacon 194 rises above a mound of Ancient metamorphic shale. Formally the bed of a primordial ocean, these shales were blasted into a mound by the heating actions of magma penetrating close to the earth's surface. The Dreyer family has farmed in Paarl since 1705. Willie the present generation Dreyer farmer has a intimate knowledge of dry land farming. Unirrigated bush vines battle through large, flat, grey shale stone. The roots must claw their way deep beneath the rock in search of moisture and nutrients. Nature and the farmer work a double shift: the Glenrosa soils of Paarl encourage grape-bunches with tiny berries; the vines are pruned to bear a small crop. The joint result is a wine of considerable concentration and distinction.

about the harvest: Harvest Date: Early February 2008
Grapes were harvested fully ripe at 26.5° Balling.

in the cellar : The fruit was brought to the cellar in small lug boxes, destalked and hand sorted over a sorting table. All raisins, under ripe berries and stalks were removed. The sorted berries were sent straight to 500 litre open French oak fermenters. Manual punch downs (pigeage) were performed three times daily. Post fermentation maceration lasted for six days. Wine was basket pressed, and malolactic fermentation was completed in 100% new French barrels. The wine was then racked, lightly sulphured and returned to 40% new French oak, with the remainder in 2nd and 3rd fill French oak barrels. This vintage spent a total of 16 months in oak.