

Sijnn Touriga Nacional 2012

Attractive deep red colour. Distinctive slate, blackcurrant, violet and spices on the nose. Subtle barrel maturation character adds complexity. Richly textured palate with accessible juicy tannins, excellent complexity and an attractive dry finish.

variety : Touriga Nacional | 100% Touriga Nacional

winery : Sijnn

winemaker : De Trafford Team

wine of origin : Breede River Valley

analysis : alc : 14.50 % vol rs : 1.7 g/l pH : 3.66 ta : 5.7 g/l va : 0.90 g/l so2 : 66 mg/l fso2 : 24 mg/l

type : Red **style :** Dry **wooded**

pack : Bottle **size :** 750ml **closure :** Cork

ageing : Drink 2015 to 2022.

in the vineyard : An exciting new vineyard between the tiny hamlet of Malagas and Cape Infanta, at the mouth of the Breede River – called Sijnn by the original Khoisan inhabitants. Perched on a plateau of slate and rolled stones, about 15km from the southern oceans of Africa. At this stage there are no other vineyards within a 40 km radius, the closest being those inland around Swellendam and along the coast of Elim. A new ward, Malgas, has been formed, applicable from the 2010 vintage.

The complex stony soils, together with a warm dry climate (350mm) moderated by constant sea breezes provides an ideal terroir to produce something unique. The soils are typically 85% stone, with about 600mm deep round, pudding stones on the surface with schist in the subsoil, however most of the Touriga is planted on pure schist. All vines are grown as bush vines due to the exceptional low yield and vigour, from the 6 & 7 year old vines. Yield: 3 ton/ha (22 hl/ha)

Typical dry windy conditions meant tiny yields and moderate growth. Jan/Feb average max. 26°C, but very few days over 30°C. Usually the max. temp. is reached before midday and it is a little cooler in the afternoon due to the strong sea breezes. Vines irrigated before growing season and again at veraison to assist the critical ripening process, otherwise the vines are left to fend for themselves. Light drizzle and early morning mist around harvest did not affect the thick skinned Touriga much.

about the harvest: Picked in the early morning.

in the cellar : Touriga Nacional is considered the greatest grape in one of the great wine styles of the world – namely vintage port. Although not fortified, the intrinsic qualities, intense complex fruit and big, tannic structure, shine through.

Picked in the early morning and transported to Stellenbosch in a cool truck. Spontaneous natural yeast fermentation followed sorting, crushing and destemming. Time on skins was 9 days, with skins punched down 2 to 3 times a day. Single pressing in traditional basket press and malolactic fermentation in barrels. Time in barrel was 22 months. Bottled by hand, unfinned and unfiltered.

