

## Ridgeback Shiraz 2012

Intense, upfront notes of dark cherry, cracked black pepper, liquorice and a hint of tobacco leaf are cradled by oak spice and suede tannins on the long savoury finish.

variety : Shiraz | 100% Shiraz  
winery : Ridgeback Wines  
winemaker : Toit Wessels  
wine of origin : Paarl  
analysis : alc : 13.5 % vol rs : 2.1 g/l pH : 3.78 ta : 5.5 g/l  
type : Red style : Dry body : Medium taste : Fruity wooded  
pack : Bottle size : 0 closure : Cork

ageing : Cellar for 7-10 years.

in the vineyard : North-south facing vineyards are grown in a combination of Glenrosa and Oakleaf soils. The vine shoots are vertically positioned on high trellises for optimal vine and bunch ripening. Irrigation is scheduled according to soil moisture monitoring and leaf water potential profiles.

about the harvest: Grapes were handpicked on 22 February 2012 - 6 March 2012.

Analysis:

Sugar: 24.8 Balling

Acidity: 5.05g/l

pH: 3.75

in the cellar : Harvesting was scheduled for optimal phenolic ripeness and to ensure the retention of the vibrant fruit flavour in the berries. The hand harvested bunches were destalked onto the sorting table where only the very best berries were selected for ferment. A whole berry component of about 30% reached the fermenter. The mash was fermented in open top stainless steel fermenters at 24-28 C and ferment lasted 6 days. Judicious pumpovers for extraction of flavour, aromatics and tannins were carried out 3- 4 times daily during this time. The mash was immediately pressed after alcoholic fermentation was completed and the free run and pressed fractions were consolidated. Wine was gravity fed to 225Li barrels for secondary Malo-Lactic fermentation. The wine was racked twice for clarification during the maturation period. Maturation lasted for 19 months in 50% first, 25% second and 25% third-fill French oak barrels. Blending of selected barrels was followed by a light filtration before bottling.

