

Meerlust Merlot 2014

Deep, youthful purple colour with a ruby rim. Intense dark brambly fruit on the nose, mulberry, liquorice and damson plum with hints of dark chocolate and spice, tempered by a stony minerality. The full bodied palate offers generous, ripe, pure Merlot fruit with refreshing acidity, structured yet silky tannins and pronounced length and minerality. There is a core of juiciness, opulence and richness typical of the variety, while the Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot lend greater complexity to the wine.

Red meats, game and strong cheeses. Ideally served at 18°C - 19°C

variety : Merlot |

winery : Meerlust Estate

winemaker : Chris Williams

wine of origin : Stellenbosch

analysis : alc : 14.0 % vol rs : 2.2 g/l pH : 3.49 ta : 6.13 g/l

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

pack : Bottle **size :** 0 **closure :** Cork

ageing : Up to 12 years, provided wine is stored in ideal cellar conditions

in the vineyard : Selected from vineyards of 24 year old Estate-grown Merlot plantings situated on well drained yet clay-rich Oak leaf, Vilafontes and Klapmuts soil. 40% vendage vert (green harvesting cluster removal) at 60% veraison to ensure concentration and even-ripening. Leaves around the bunches were removed 3 weeks before harvesting to ensure physiological ripeness of the berries.

about the harvest: Grapes hand-picked and selected before crushing.

in the cellar : Fermentation in stainless steel tanks with partial un-inoculated fermentation. Daily remontage for gentle extraction. A portion of the wine was given extended maceration on the skins for three weeks before pressing. Malolactic fermentation took place in 300 litre French oak Hogsheads. Maturation in 60% new Nevers French oak, 40% second fill Nevers for 17 months before bottling. The Meerlust Merlot 2014 is a blend of 85% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc for structure and acidity and 7% Petit Verdot which gives the wine a lifted floral aroma and polished, sleek tannins.



Meerlust Estate

Stellenbosch

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