

Meerlust Merlot 2015

2015 was a watershed vintage for our Merlot. We have been refining the viticulture to produce more balanced, flavourful fruit. This, coupled with the perfect conditions of 2015 has produced our best Merlot yet. 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 medium-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 | Merlot

winery : Meerlust Estate

winemaker : Chris Williams

wine of origin : Stellenbosch

analysis : alc : 14.0 % vol rs : 2.2 g/l pH : 3.69 ta : 5.6 g/l

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

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

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

in the vineyard :

Selected from vineyards of 25 year old Estate-grown Merlot plantings situated on well drained yet clay-rich Oak leaf, Vilafontes and Klapmuts soil. 30% 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 50% new Nevers French oak, 50% second fill Nevers for 16 months before bottling. The Meerlust Merlot 2015 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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www.meerlust.co.za



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