

## Douglas Green Fairtrade Merlot 2018

Bright garnet with a bright strawberry rim. Packed with juicy black cherry and fleshy plum aromas that tumble softly across the palate with plush mulberry and spice flavours interwoven with soft, ripe tannins and subtle oak intrigue for a smooth and juicy finish.

A soft and juicy medium bodied red that is ready to drink now or within a year or two from Vintage. Great for social sipping around the fire or with sticky ribs, roast lamb, pizza or lasagne.

**variety :** Merlot | 100% Merlot

**winery :** Douglas Green Wines

**winemaker :** Jaco Potgieter

**wine of origin :** Western Cape

**analysis :** alc : 13.81 % vol    rs : 3.5 g/l    pH : 3.48    ta : 5.59 g/l

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

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

**ageing :** Drinking well now or within 3 years of vintage.

Smooth, supple and succulently fruity

**in the vineyard :** Harvest 2018 was expected to be a challenging vintage, due to the Western Cape suffering from the worst drought in decades. Jaco says that although these challenges resulted in überconcentrated flavours and intensity, these positives proved to put winemakers' skills to the test: "Thicker skins resulted in less juice and overall volume. We had to work exceedingly careful to ensure we really extracted every drop of sap, and not too much tannin in turn" - especially since the Douglas Green winemaking team strives for easy drinking wines from the moment it is bottled.

**in the cellar :** Fermented on the skins until dry. After pressing, the young wine was allowed to complete malolactic fermentation on French oak staves then left for a further 3 months for thorough integration and complexity. Final blending and bottling takes place at our cellars in Wellington.

Wine of Origin Western Cape (Swartland and Breedekloof)

