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The Mentors Petit Verdot 2019



This intense, ruby-red wine is concentrated and leads on the nose with perfume notes, cranberries and sweet spice followed by black olives and aniseed. The palate is rich and juicy with plums and dark cherries. The grippy tannin structure is well integrated and delivers an intense, lasting finish.

Rich and juicy, the wine is best paired with hearty red meats and aged cheese.

variety : Petit Verdot | 100% Petit Verdot
winery : The Mentors
winemaker : The Winemaking Team
wine of origin : Stellenbosch
analysis : **alc :** 13.71 % vol **rs :** 3.26 g/l **pH :** 3.42 **ta :** 6.5 g/l
type : Red **style :** Dry **body :** Full **taste :** Fragrant **wooded**
pack : Bottle **size :** 750ml **closure :** Cork

2022 Lumo Awards - Gold

ageing :

This wine is ready to be enjoyed now, but will cellar well for at least eight years.

Petit Verdot is one of the classic Bordeaux varieties. It ripens very late, so in a cool region like Bordeaux it often fails to reach optimum ripeness. It has attracted many New World winemakers because in warmer climates it adds a dimension of tannin, colour and flavour to blends. It is not recognized as a variety that stands alone because it can lack finesse and fruit sweetness. (Always the bridesmaid, never the bride!)

The wine is a blend of three vineyards, two of the block are on the same farm and the third block are from a vineyard in the Helderberg ward.

The first vineyard was planted in 1997 and provides concentration and structure to the wine. The rootstock of this vineyard is Richter 99 and are planted on oakleaf soils. Dark fruit like plums and dark cherries are the main contributes of this block.

The second vineyard was planted in 2014 and provides more red fruit character, violets and finesse. The rootstock of this vineyard is Richter 110 and are planted on oakleaf soils, the same as the 1997 planting.

The third vineyard is situated close to Sir Lowry's Pass. This vineyard provide the floral component of the blend, the block is only 0.26 Ha and the rootstock is Richter 110.

The vineyards provide unique characteristics to the wine, this is why we are careful about handling wine on skins; choose to ferment using whole berries; and, use very gentle cap management techniques. Petit Verdotis known to provide intense ruby red colour, full bodied and concentrated wines. I am excited about this varietal in South Africa.

in the vineyard :

The 2019 season showed great promise with improved winter rains. However, variable weather conditions, with continuous temperature fluctuations, resulted in inconsistent bud break, uneven flowering and set. Followed by slow and uneven ripening. Reds were most affected and overall yields were down. White varieties, except for the lower yields on Sauvignon Blanc, were as expected. The challenges are not without rewards: whites are bright and flavourful with good aromatics. Reds have soft tannins with rich fruit and generosity.

about the harvest: Grapes were harvested optimally ripe and hand-sorted in the cellar to ensure only the best fruit is used for fermentation.

in the cellar :
After two days of cold maceration the juice was inoculated with a selected yeast strain. Alcoholic fermentation lasted approximately six days and during this time was pumped over every five hours. Wine was racked off the skins, settled and transferred to barrels where malolactic fermentation took place for three weeks. The wine was then racked and cleaned, and returned to barrels. After 12 months, the best wines were selected to mature for an additional six months. In total during the 18-month maturation period the wine was racked twice. This wine is truly about selecting the best-of-the-best.

Maturation:
The wine was matured for 18 months in French oak barrels of which 70% was first-fill.