

Laborie Merlot 2020

This vibrant Merlot shows aromas of blackcurrant, plum & raspberry. The palate is well-weighted with grippy tannins and a fragrant, elegant finish.

Enjoy this wine on its own or with tomato-based pastas, roasted duck, chicken or grilled steak.

variety : Merlot | 100% Merlot

winery : Laborie Wines

winemaker : The Winemaking Team

wine of origin : Western Cape

analysis : alc : 14.39 % vol rs : 5.61 g/l pH : 3.46 ta : 6.32 g/l

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

pack : Bottle **size :** 0 **closure :** Screwcap

ageing : This wine can be savoured now or cellared for up to 4 years from vintage.

Winter 2020 delivered good rainfall and cold that saw us returning to long term averages and the end of the drought that had tested all in the Western Cape for the last 5 years. Spring 2020 was defined by later bud break and particularly cool and wet conditions. Variable bud break

was observed on a number of varieties. Flowering 2020 saw a continuation of this trend of cooler weather, intermittent rainfall and overcast conditions with lots of wind. The increased rainfall also brought significant disease pressure to most areas, in particular Downey Mildew.

Summer has been a far cooler affair that we have been used to with particularly cool nights. This is per se a very good indicator of a quality vintage. We received only one or two warm days that were immediately followed by a cool spell all the way into late January. Harvest began on

21st January, 14 days later than last year and finished on the 7th of April.

in the vineyard : The Winter provided sufficient cold and higher rainfall for a great start to this vintage. Regular, small rains in spring and cool to moderate temperatures provided conditions for good, early season cane and canopy development. Bud break was even as was spring growth, but flowering was not - usually due to weather. Early leaf breaks directly after flowering allowed sunlight to even out the vintage, as did early green harvesting of retarded bunches. Growth and development sped up in moderate conditions that ensured outstanding vine health. Warmth from late December to January drought and lighter yields, meant another record early start to harvest that ran until early March. In spite of shifts in variety harvest order, wine quality looks fabulous.

in the cellar :

Components of the wine were oak-matured for 8 to 10 months.

