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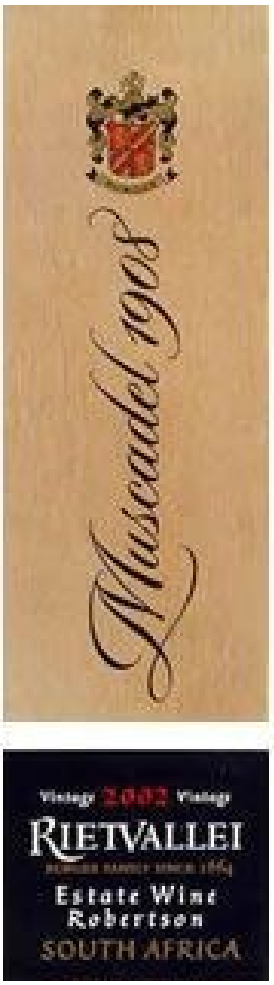
Rietvallei 1908 Muscadel 2002



Veritas 2006 - Silver
Michelangelo Awards 2006 - Silver Medal
Swiss International Air Line Awards 2005 - Gold

Deep red in colour, full-bodied, rich, yet gentle. A floral bouquet comes through on the nose, with typical raisiny sweetness and an intense flavour that lingers on the palate and follows through on the aftertaste. Additional bottle maturation gives excellent results.

variety : Muscat de Frontignan | 100% Muscadel
winery : Rietvallei Wine Estate
winemaker : Johnny Burger
wine of origin : Breede River
analysis : **alc :** 15.72 % vol **rs :** 249.5 g/l **pH :** 3.63 **ta :** 6.0 g/l **va :** 0.34 g/l
type : Fortified **wooded**
pack : Bottle

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This unique wine is made exclusively from the oldest Muscat de Frontignan vines in South Africa, planted on Rietvallei Estate in 1908 by the second generation of the Burger family.
This wine is still made according to the original Burger family recipe as passed down through the generations since 1864. Most of the traditional winemaking techniques are still followed to this day for this special wine, like the fermentation in open concrete tanks; the wetting of the cap by pushing it down by hand every two hours during fermentation; and finally the use of a hand operated basket press. You could really say that this wine is hand made.

in the vineyard : The Muscadel is in the form of bush vines and consists of approximately a quarter of a hectare. At 95 years of age these bush vines have an extemely low yield, resulting in excellent fruit concentration.

about the harvest: The bush vines wereharvested by hand at 26 - 27Â° Balling, crushed and pumped into open cement tanks.

in the cellar : Here it was kept on the skins for two days for colour and flavour extraction. During this time the cap (grape skins that compact on the top of the must because of CO2 formation as a result of fermentation) is wetted every two hours by pushing it down into the must by hand. After the two days the free run must is drained and the wet skins pressed in a basket press. The must is then fortified with pure wine spirits and left on its fine lees for two months. After this it is taken from the lees and allowed to tank mature for 12 - 13 months before bottling. This maturation is essential for the marriage of the spirits and the wine.