

FLEUR DU CAP

Alive with Flair

SERIES PRIVÉE MERLOT 2016

Fleur du Cap has the freedom to select regional vineyards throughout the Western Cape, where individual varieties best express their character and finesse. Our Series Privée range is a meticulous selection of the finest wines from our cellar and capture the essence of our vision, "freedom of expression".

THE VINEYARDS

The grapes come from 2 blocks in Stellenbosch. The first is situated in Stellenbosch Kloof, planted in 2000. The clone is MO348 grafted on Richter 110 rootstock which is known for excellent resistance to dry conditions. The second is situated in the picturesque Devon Valley and was planted in 2003, also on Richter 110. Both row directions are E/W and planted on southwestern facing slopes. Production varies between 7 and 9 tons/ha and only certain areas in the vineyard get selected for the Series Privée range. Irrigation is only supplementary in the late season. Pest and disease control was implemented according to South African IPW standards. These vineyard blocks were selected for their exceptional potential, unique terroir and the attention to detail these producers show.

FOOD PAIRING

This succulent Merlot is perfect with Parma ham, roast lamb kebabs and a hearty oxtail meal. It is an ideal accompaniment to robust Italian dishes.

ANALYSIS

Alcohol	14.90 vol %
Residual sugar	1.86 g/l
Total acidity	6.02 g/l
pH	3.48

THE WINEMAKING

Grapes were handpicked, crushed via a sorting table and fermented in stainless steel tanks and small open top fermenters. Flavour and tannin extraction was evaluated daily and managed by manual punch downs, pump-over and delestage. After fermentation, the wine was drained off with the hard pressings excluded. The wine was transferred to French and American oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and left to mature for 18 months. Our range of Series Privée wines are unfiltered, with time and gravity the unwanted solid particles drop to the bottom and are gently racked away. The result is wines that show that little bit extra on the nose and pallet; a deeper, richer, more complex and lingering intensity.

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

This wine has a deep ruby colour with a bright hue. On the nose it shows multiple layers of dark fruit such as plum and blackcurrant with a hint of oak spice. The palate is plush, rich and velvety with well- balanced fruit and supple ripe tannins that lead to great ageing potential.

