



2012 Claypot Merlot

Technical details:

Varietal:	100 % Merlot
Alcohol:	14%
Total acidity:	5,6 g/l
pH:	3,6
Residual sugar:	2,1 g/l

Tasting notes:

One of our flagship wines and probably one of the best Merlots in South – Africa. The grapes for this wine are from one single organically grown block that was planted in 1998. We harvest this block 3–4 times. Usually the vineyard team will go in beginning of February and mark the less vigorous parts. This always gives us the most structure, the least alcohol and also the lowest amount of greenness. We definitely are looking for more voluptuous flavours with a good velvety texture and absolutely no green tin – pea character. By going completely organic on the farm we believe that this adds to the quality of this wine. It is usually a very strict selection and only the best of the best barrels end up in this wine. Total production can be anything between 10 and 31 barrels depending on harvest and quality. We do follow traditional “European” practices and we very much look at Pomerol as our inspiration. We harvest by hand and chill the grapes if possible. Cold soak is important, especially for some batches. A very strict sorting regime is in place to remove all the green unwanted stems that the destemmer cannot remove. We do 1.5 to 2 tons per hour and it’s done by hand, after destemming but before crushing. A light crush will follow. Few days cold soak and some tanks will be allowed to do natural fermentation. A relative short and very warm fermentation is preferred. Skin contact can last 10-35 days, depending on vintage. Malolactic fermentation is finished in stainless before 100% New French oak barrels from a selected cooperage is filled for ageing. 14–24 Months in barrel depending on vintage. The wine is bottled with a sterile filtration. Deep, dark colour. Some choc chip flavours with hints of mulberry and mocha. Full bodied with lots of structure and good velvety tannins. A burst of fruit on the palate with crushed berries, spice and some white chocolate evident. Good length and complexity. To be enjoyed till 2024.