
Ernie Els Cabernet Sauvignon “Major Series” 2021

CSPC# 755117

12x750ml

13.95% alc./vol.

Chemical Analysis	Acidity	5.7 g/l	pH:	3.74	Residual Sugar	2.2 g/l
Grape Variety	100% Cabernet Sauvignon					
Region	Stellenbosch, South Africa					
Sustainability	Sustainability Initiative: I.P.W. (Integrated Production of Wine) Certified					
Vintage	The 2021 Vintage was the first vintage where the vines started to come back into their normal circadian rhythm with the rain and temperatures normalizing. This vintage started with the soil at full water holding capacity allowing the vines to bud with no limitations. The temperatures this season were relatively hot but had intermittent cooler days with rain. This led to stretching the ripening of the fruit to allow the ripening process to continue for longer.					
Winemaker	Louis Strydom					
Vineyards	The Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot vineyards grow on the warm north-facing slopes of the Helderberg region within the Stellenbosch appellation. The Hutton Clovelly soils contain a high gravel content which offers rich middle palate weight giving this wine exceptional depth and fruit purity. With an altitude of approximately 250 metres above sea level together with the cooling influence of the Atlantic Ocean just 15 kilometres away, this extends the ripening period by up to 3 weeks resulting in lovely phenolic ripeness.					
Vinification & Maturation	The various Cabernet Sauvignon clones grown at the property were hand-picked, and great care was taken to ensure each block was processed separately. The bunches were sorted and destemmed before secondary sorting via an optical sorter took place. The whole berries were fermented in open top tanks. Premium selection grapes from selected parcels within the various clonal blocks were fermented in smaller open fermenters. Intermittent pump-overs and punch downs were done to ensure that the right flavours, aromas and tannins could be extracted from the berries. All ferments were meticulously monitored to ensure an optimal balance between flavour and tannins. After primary fermentation some tanks underwent extended maceration. Each clonal batch of Cabernet was micro-vinified in oak barrels and a small batch spent 11 months aging in terracotta before final blending and bottling took place. Aged for 18 months in 300 litre French oak barrels (30% new). A small batch of Cabernet Sauvignon (10%) spend 11 months in terracotta.					
Tasting Notes	Deep radiant plum. Sandalwood and cedar greet, unfurling like the pages of an old book to ink, plum, tea-leaf with a burst of fresh violets. On the palate, energetic focus and purity of cassis fruit show off this cooler than average vintage. A spine of cool, mineral acidity affirms this, acting as refreshing ballast for the sapidity of blackcurrants, dark cherries, and rush of tangy pomegranate. The juicy, clean fruit is folded in by satiny tannins, that layer and dissolve into a sophisticated dry finish.					
Serve with	Port wine braised beef short ribs. Cabernet-braised venison cheeks. Smoked Beef fillet with Salsa Verde.					
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2034					
Scores/Awards	92 points (4.5*) - Meryl Weaver, <i>John Platter's Guide to South African Wines, 2024</i> Double Gold Medal - Veritas 2022 Top 10 / 93 points - Prescient Cabernet Sauvignon Report, September 2023					
Reviews	<i>"Pure cab in 2021 from selected parcels of different clones, individually vinified & blended after ageing. Quite brooding, with concentrated dark berries & some savouriness bound up in firm, cedary oak framework, 30% new. Youthful, handsome rewards in time. Last-tasted 2018 had dashes Syrah & petit verdot."</i> - MW, <i>John Platter's Guide to South African Wines</i>					

