



DeMorgenzon Reserve Syrah 2017

Winemaker	Carl van der Merwe
Varietal blend	100% Syrah
Appellation	Stellenbosch
Alcohol content	14.5%
TA	4.82 g/l
pH	3.82
RS	2.2g/l

VINEYARDS

These vineyards are situated on the farm DeMorgenzon in the Stellenboschkloof. Soils are mostly weathered granite which gives the resultant wines a natural exuberance and youthful vigour. Planted in 2004 the trellised vineyard is managed to ensure natural high acidity and full flavour concentration. The yield was 8 tons per hectare.

VINTAGE

2017 was another hot and dry vintage in the Cape. Although the day time temperatures were warm, evening temperatures were much cooler than normal resulting in wines with incredible weight and texture, yet with great acidity and length. The dryness of the season resulted in minimal disease pressure with fruit arriving at the winery in very good condition. The grapes were handpicked and selected in the early morning at between 23.5° and 24.5° Balling.

VINIFICATION AND MATURATION

The Syrah was manually harvested and destalked into stainless steel fermentation tanks. A small percentage of bunches were fermented without destalking. Natural fermentation followed with a slight extended maceration on the skins to stabilize the colour and give the wine palate length. Fermentation temperatures were managed between 24°C and 30°C with a combination of punch downs and gentle pump overs to extract colour and flavour from the skins. After fermentation, the wine was pressed off the skins and malolactic fermentation was completed in barrel. The wine spent 10 months in 300L French oak barrels and a further 10 months in 3000L Fourdré barrels. After final blending the wine was transferred to 300 liter barrels for settling, after which the wine was racked and bottled without filtration

TASTING NOTES

Deep, purple core. Rich, berry fruit nose with lots of ripe, red plum and whiffs of white pepper. Some floral notes in the background, including violets, lavender and spring blossoms. Full in the mouth with tremendous youthful vigour. Layers of berry fruit with developing spices of pepper, cinnamon, clove and vanilla. Gentle oak integration shows and supports the elegance and roundness at this early age.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

2017:

Gold Medal *International Wine Challenge 2020*
95 Points *Tim Atkin MW's South Africa Report 2020*
93 Points *Decanter World Wine Awards 2020*

2015:

93 Points *Tim Atkin MW's South Africa Report 2017*
93 points *Neal Martin for Vinous*

2014:

92 Points *Neal Martin for Robert Parker's Wine Advocate 2016*
Top 12 *SA Shiraz Challenge*

2012:

Top 20 Finalist *Shiraz SA Challenge 2014*
93 points *Tim Atkin MW South Africa Report 2014*
90 points *Stephen Tanzer's Wine Cellar*
Top 10 Nominee *Jamie Goode's South African Wines of 2014*
Silver Outstanding *IWSC 2014*
Silver *Decanter 2014*
Silver *IWC 2014*
Silver *Michelangelo Awards 2014*

