

## Meerlust Merlot 2017

main variety Merlot

vintage 2017

analysis alc: 14.0 | ph: 3.47 | rs: 2.33 | ta: 5.84

type Red

producer Meerlust Estate

style Dry

winemaker Chris Williams

taste Fruity

wine of Stellenbosch

body Full

### tasting notes

The dark fruit and opulence of the wine is immediately apparent. We have been refining the viticulture to produce more balanced, flavourful fruit. Intense dark brambly fruit on the nose, mulberry, liquorice and damson plum with hints of dark chocolate and spice, tempered by a stony minerality. The medium-full bodied palate offers generous, ripe, pure Merlot fruit with refreshing acidity, structured yet silky tannins and pronounced length and minerality. There is a core of juiciness, opulence and richness typical of the variety, while the Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot lend greater complexity to the wine.

### ageing potential

Up to 12 years, provided wine is stored in ideal cellar conditions

### blend information

87.5% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 4.5% Petit Verdot

### food suggestions

Red meats, game and strong cheeses.

### in the vineyard

Selected from vineyards of 27 year old Estate-grown Merlot plantings situated on well drained yet clay-rich Oak leaf, Vilafontes and Klappmuts soil. 30% vendage vert (green harvesting cluster removal) at 60% veraison to ensure concentration and even-ripening. Leaves around the bunches were removed 3 weeks before harvesting to ensure physiological ripeness of the berries.

### about the harvest

Grapes hand-picked and selected before crushing.

### in the cellar

Fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks with daily remontage for gentle extraction. A portion of the wine was given extended maceration on the skins before pressing. Malolactic fermentation took place in 300 litre French oak Hogsheads. Maturation in 54% new French oak, 46% second fill for 17 months before bottling. The Meerlust Merlot 2017 is a blend of 87,5% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc for structure and acidity and 4,5% Petit Verdot which gives the wine a lifted floral aroma and polished, sleek tannins.

