

ESTD 1692

HARTENBERG

FAMILY VINEYARDS

MERLOT 2015



Hartenberg winemaker, Carl Shultz, won the Diners Club “Winemaker of the Year” award for the very fine 2004 Estate Merlot. Our 2005 vintage received the trophy for best Merlot in the World at the 2008 International Wine & Spirits Competition in London.

The vineyards were given a green harvest at veraison to ensure evenly ripe fruit. Picking was decided by tasting, thereby ensuring optimal ripeness. All grapes were handpicked and sorted in the vineyard, de-stemmed and lightly crushed. The grapes were cold-soaked and then inoculated with French-sourced yeast. The must was fermented between 24 and 26° Celsius and pumped over daily. An extended maceration took place, followed by fractional pressing. After settling, the wine went to French oak for malo-lactic fermentation.

TASTING NOTES

Notes of dark plum, cherry, violets and star anise on the bouquet. The palate is silky on entry and then shows a seamless transition to an elegant mid-palate. The palate shows further red and black fruit, intermingled with spicy, cedary oak flavours. Tannins are fine grained and well integrated, allowing for a long, velvety finish.

FOOD MATCHING

Merlot pairs well with a range of foods. Panko crumbed pork with mustard cream sauce, roasted tomato pasta or a juicy hamburger with cheddar cheese topping.

PRODUCTION

Barrel Ageing: 19 months in French oak, 50% new, 50% 2nd fill
Maturation: 10 - 15 years from vintage
Alcohol: 14.30% by volume
Residual Sugar: 2.4 g/l
Total Acid: 5.9 g/l
pH 3.46

AWARDS

2015 Vintage	GOLD MEDAL Decanter World Wine Awards (the only South African Gold medal for Merlot) Gold Medal Veritas Awards 2017
2014 Vintage	92 points Tim Atkin, 4 stars Platter's SA Wine Guide
2013 Vintage	4 stars Platter's SA Wine Guide
2012 Vintage	4 stars Platter's SA Wine Guide
2011 Vintage	4 stars Platter's SA Wine Guide
2010 Vintage	Gold Medal Concours Mondial 2014 Gold Medal Veritas, 4 stars Platter's SA Wine Guide
2009 Vintage	4 stars Platter's SA Wine Guide 2013 91 points Robert Parker

Stellenbosch South Africa

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