

vilafonté

Series C 2017

Classical & Complex

Series C 2017 showcases beautiful purity, striking intensity and a remarkably long finish of dark fruit with a touch of clove spice.

This blend displays a deep, intense ruby colour. The nose offers a remarkably complex fruit expression, opening with blackcurrant, blueberry and fresh juniper berry interwoven with sensuous violet perfume. Composed dark fruits transition to hints of chocolate and hazelnut praline. A subtle slate/lead-like minerality underlies a bittersweet, spicy Cola note. The entry is plush and weighty, with an abundance of fine-grained tannins across the palate - most reminiscent of crushed velvet. Although immediately engaging, this blend will mature most gracefully, rewarding the patient collector.

The Vintage

An abundant crop of sterling quality. Yields rose by fifty-seven percent, despite the fourth year in a sequence of below-average rainfall for the Western Cape Province. This follows Vilafonté's smallest per-hectare crop (2016) and moves back to long-term average yields. Welcome post-harvest rains in the preceding year before leaf fall, coupled with well-timed nutrient applications, allowed our vines to build up reserves before going into winter dormancy. Winter rains in 2016 approached normal levels, but fell below average in late winter to spring. Bud-break in the spring was very even, with rapid shoot growth which ceased well before bloom, allowing excellent fruit-set. Weather leading up to harvest was warm and fair - perfect ripening conditions. Harvest commenced on the 6th of February with a few short pauses, and concluded on the 1st of March. At blending, varietal wines were expressive, showing a classical elegance and restrained power - steel sheathed in velvet.

The Blend

Twenty-two months in seventy percent new French oak barrique, with the balance in older French oak. Series C 2017 consists of Cabernet Sauvignon (fifty-seven percent), Merlot (twenty-one percent), Cabernet Franc (thirteen percent) and Malbec (nine percent).

Forty-six barrels were produced.

Zelma Long
September 2019

Chris de Vries
September 2019