

vilafonté

Series M 2017

Grace & Finesse

Series M 2017 is the culmination of nature and nurture; a symphony of the senses. This harmonious blend combines plummy hues with an inky, garnet red colour. Offering warm vanilla, ripe raspberry and Asian plum aromas on entry; this focused and pure rendition of Series M deepens to pencil lead, a terracotta earthen character and delicate pressed violets when afforded greater airtime. Beautifully nuanced in its measured energy, the palate is fresh and elegant, graceful and complete. Seductively smooth on entry, swelling in intensity with a succulent core and culminating in a soft, round finish full of sour cherry and chocolate. Tannins are multi-layered, polished and lithe, adding to the balanced structure. Although immediately engaging, this blend requires time to express full concentration, and 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 (3,1 tons per hectare in 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-one months in twenty-three percent new French oak barrique, with the balance in older French oak. Series M 2017 consists of Merlot (forty-two percent), Malbec (thirty-nine percent), and Cabernet Sauvignon (nineteen percent).
Seventy-nine barrels were produced.

Zelma Long
May 2020

Chris de Vries
May 2020