

vilafonté

Series M 2018

Perfumed & Intense

A deep ruby colour with an inky purple rim. Aromatics showing opulence and youthful tension. Complex layers of pomegranate, Boysenberry and black cherry lead to baking spice, fresh pastry and a peppery base note of teak wood shavings. The palate shows a seamless fine structure, silky focus and alluring, supple texture. Fruit flavours are generous – luscious black raspberry and cherry, balanced by rich concentration and lingering espresso notes. This is a big, bold wine and although immediately accessible, cellaring will reward the patient collector for the next two decades or even more

The Vintage

Phoenix rising. Marked by the worst drought on record, 2018 presented some significant challenges. After the driest three-year period (2015–2017) in recent history, water resources in the Western Cape were at an all-time low, putting water supplies under immense pressure and leading to strict water rationing. Early in the growing season, water received from the Berg River Water Scheme was cut to forty-five percent of usual allocation, and then further cut to twenty percent in December. Low soil moisture in Spring, and limited water available for irrigation led to reduced vigour and canopy size. Some unseasonable rain and low temperatures in October and November disrupted fruit set and reduced the number and size of berries on each cluster. Harvest timing was normal, beginning on February 2nd and continued uninterrupted through February 27th. It was humbling to see how well our vineyards fared under such sustained drought conditions. The 2018 vintage saw yields contract by twenty-four percent, following a generous 2017 crop. Noteworthy is the small berry size for this vintage; on average, berries were twenty-five percent smaller by variety and largely under a gram per berry.

The wines of the vintage show concentration of flavour, richness and structure, promising longevity in the cellar.

The Blend

Twenty-two months in twenty-four percent new French oak barrique, with the balance in older French oak. Series M 2018 consists of Merlot (forty-five percent), Malbec (forty-one percent), Cabernet Sauvignon (thirteen percent) and Cabernet Franc (one percent).

Sixty-eight barrels were produced.



Zelma Long
March 2021



Chris de Vries
March 2021