

vilafonté

Series C 2017

Classical & Complex

The Series C 2017 displays deep and intense ruby colour. The nose offers deep and remarkably complex fruit expression. Opening with blackcurrant, blueberry and fresh juniper berry interwoven with sensuous violet perfume. Composed dark fruits passage to hints of chocolate, clove spice and hazelnut. A subtle slate to lead-like minerality underlies a bittersweet and spicy Cola note. The entry is plush and of serious weight, with an abundance of fine-grained tannins across the palate - most reminiscent of crushed velvet. Series C 2017 displays beautiful purity, striking intensity and a remarkably long finish of dark fruit and hints of clove spice. 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 Vilafontés 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 rather than intensity and power.

The Blend

Twenty-two months in seventy percent new French oak barrique, with the balance in older French oak barriques. 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.

Chris de Vries
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