

vilafonté

Seriously Old Dirt 2018

The seventh vintage release

Succulent & Alluring

The 2018 vintage of Seriously Old Dirt by Vilafonté displays a brilliant, bright, deep garnet-red colour. Fruit-forward and juicy, revealing black cherry & sour plum. Flinty, black powder and blonde tobacco with waves of luscious dark chocolate. A taught freshness with an almost saline focus on the fore-palate. Tannins are fine-grained and ripe, tightening up the profile and focus with great length. Sumptuous and effortless. All the hallmarks of a great Cabernet-driven blend. Serious.

The Vintage

Phoenix rising. Marked by the worst drought on record, 2018 presented some significant challenges. After a dry three-year period (2015-2017), water resources in the Western Cape Province were at an all-time low, putting water supplies under immense pressure and leading to strict water rationing. An extended dry period like this quickly reveals the true value of our long-term investment in water resources. Early in the growing season, water which we receive from the Berg River Water Scheme was cut to forty-five percent of usual allocation, and then further cut back 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. Further water restrictions led to the termination of any remaining allocation by end of January. Harvest timing was on schedule, commencing on February 2nd 2018 and continued uninterrupted through February 27th.

The 2018 vintage saw yields contract by twenty-four percent, following a generous 2017 crop.

It was humbling to see our older vines thriving under such punishing drought conditions.

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, richness and structure, promising longevity in the cellar.

The Blend

Matured for twenty-one months in older French oak barrique. Seriously Old Dirt 2018 consists of Cabernet Sauvignon (eighty-nine percent), Malbec (five percent), Merlot (four percent) and Cabernet Franc (two percent).

One hundred and thirty-five barrels were produced.

A wine to be share with friends, laughter and good times

Zelma Long
May 2020

Chris de Vries
May 2020