



AMATRA RANGE

2017 'THE OREADS' MERLOT



ORIGIN:

Elgin Valley, South Africa

CULTIVARS:

Merlot: 100%

TASTING NOTE:

French clone (348) Merlot exudes bright, fresh black plums. Plush purple fruit flavours are supported by a vibrant thread of fresh acidity from the cool climate fruit from the Elgin Valley. The wine is harmoniously balanced with opulently textured mid-core palate weight.

PHILOSOPHY:

To create a complex, mouth filling wine from ripened clusters with purple fruit opulence and restrained tannin structure in cool climate conditions. Optimal vine ripeness and canopy management are key to producing seamless Merlot that is perfectly suited to the Elgin Valley.

VINEYARDS:

Vines grown on deep Tukulu soils (a mixture of sandstone, gravels and clay) on a drought resistant rootstock, as Merlot is particularly heat sensitive, are trellised on a 5-wire fence system facing east. French clone 348 best suits this relatively warm site as it produces wines of elegance, bright purple fruit and purity.

Stringent canopy management is implemented, as the vigour of crop and leaf canopy is very high. Clusters are hand - picked towards end of March in small batches of 18kg.

WINEMAKING:

Clusters were de-stemmed and partially crushed after stringent sorting to remove unwanted berries and other matter. Spontaneous fermentation occurred in small fermentation vats for fourteen days and once primary fermentation was completed, the mash was pressed in a small basket press. The wine was then decanted to small French oak casks for secondary Malo-lactic fermentation and left to mature for 12 months. The final barrel selection was made and taken through a very light filtration prior to bottling.

ANALYSIS:

Alcohol: 14.0% ; Acidity: 5.30g/l ; pH: 3.56 ; Residual Sugar: 2.5g/l ; Total Extract: 30.0g/l

Our wine is Vegan Registered and IPW (sustainable wine production) audited

RECOMMENDED BOTTLE MATURATION:

In its youth, broad and bright purple fruit is forward and over time will evolve to stewed prunes, blonde tobacco and hazelnuts with seamless, mellowed tannins on the finish. Wine should mature for 8 to 10 years under optimal cellar conditions.

RELEASE DATE:

June 2020

QUANTITY OF BOTTLES:

733 x 6 x 750ml

ACCOLADES:

2017 Tim Atkin Cape report:	90 points
2017 John Platter Guide:	4 *
2018 John Platter Guide:	4*
2019 John Platter Guide:	4*