Circumstance Syrah, WO Stellenbosch 2021

FBW1352021

Waterkloof

— Stellenbosch, South Africa

Classic Syrah, elegant and structured, distinctly northern Rhone in influence. One of South Africa's finest examples of the grape and a true vin de garde.

Production

Living soils and a natural approach to winemaking means that each of the single-varietal wines in the Circumstance range is truly defined by the circumstances influencing the chosen varietal and vineyard blocks, including: soil, aspect, altitude and vintage. Circumstance Syrah is from a single, windswept, south-facing (less sun exposure) block 240-60m above and a mere 2 miles from The Atlantic. These factors combine to produce low yields, balanced grapes and wines with a true sense of place. Production was a miserly 5 tons per hectare. Grapes are hand-harvested and brought to the cellar by horses for hand-sorting. Bunches are sorted and whole-bunch fermentation happens spontaneously with wild yeast in large, open-top wooden fermenters. Manual punch-downs or foot-pressing take place 1-2 times per day and the wine is left on skins for 30 days before going through malolactic fermentation in old 600 litre barrels then ageing for 22 months in the same vessels. No fining, just a light filtration. No additons other than sulphur.

Tasting note

Fresh and lifted on the noise with black pepper and spice, complemented by aromas of ripe black fruits, wild flowers, dried herbs and lightly smokey notes. The palate is fresh and supple, with ripe plum and black cherry fruit and hints of cocoa. Bright acidity and firm, ripe tannins balance the taut, concentrated fruit leading to a stony minerality on the long, savoury finish.

Food Match

Great with red meats, especially lamb or sirloin steak, flavoured with Southern French herbs (rosemary, thyme) or hearty casseroles.

ABV:
14.00%

Case/Bottle Size:
6x 75cl

Closure:
Cork

Category:
Natural/Sustainable

Appellation:
WO Stellenbosch

Winemaker:
Nadia Langenegger

Grape Varieties:
Shiraz 100%

Suitable for:
Vegan

Bottle Barcode:
6009650000846