


**BIG EASY RED BLEND, ERNIE ELS**

Vintage

**2023**


A blend of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Cinsaut and Viognier from in and around the Stellenbosch region.

**TASTING NOTE**

Ruby with a translucent rim. Savoury and open with aromatics of iron filings, red and black cherries, and dustings of tomato leaf; all framed in gentle oak-spice. Juicy, with pinpoint balance between freshness and structure, and an alluring thrill of black pepper spice. Plum and pomegranate on the mid energised with blood-orange, citrusy tang. The tannins are crunchy and glowing, and wrap to the finish with sultry poise. Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Shiraz 30%, Merlot 5%, Cabernet Franc 5%, Petit Verdot 5% and Malbec 5% Magnums available

**VINTAGE CONDITIONS**

The 2023 growing season was marked by a warmer winter and fewer cold units, but steady Atlantic winds and light spring showers helped regulate summer temperatures. This led to healthy canopy growth, even development, and balanced ripening across all varieties. Harvest began on 16 February with Merlot and concluded with our later-ripening Cabernet Sauvignon, which benefited from extended hang time. Despite late-season rain and predictions of a smaller crop, the Helderberg produced exceptional fruit with remarkable colour, structure and finesse.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS**

Alcohol	Residual sugar
14.0	2.7
pH	Acidity
3.63	5.7

**VINIFICATION DETAILS**

The grapes were harvested in the early hours of the morning when temperatures were coolest, before destalking and optical sorting took place. The wine was fermented in Italian Nico Velo concrete tanks, with regular pump-overs and punch-downs to maintain a harmonious balance between colour, flavour, and tannin extraction from the skins. The Shiraz component was partially whole bunch fermented to aid with flavour complexity and fruit intensity. Following the primary fermentation stage, each variety underwent extended maceration and maturation. Aged for 14 months in 300-Litre French and American oak barrels (15% new). A small portion (5%) of the Cabernet Sauvignon was matured in Terracotta Amphora for 8 to 10 months, before final blending and bottling took place.

**AWARDS**

IWC: Gold 95 pts

**ATTRIBUTES**

				
Origin	Variety	Malolactic Fermentation	Bottle Size	Vegetarian
South Africa	Red Blend	Yes	75cl	Yes



Winemaker

Louis Strydom



Fining Agent

None



Closure

Cork



Region

Western Cape



Vegan

Yes