

**BIG EASY RED BLEND, ERNIE ELS**
**Vintage**
**2022**


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. Fresh cinnamon, all-spice and tobacco leaf curl across a mix of black and red cherries. Cabernet Sauvignon led, a component of Shiraz layers in spicy perfume and pine needle freshness. Cabernet Sauvignon 50%; Shiraz 30%; Merlot 5%; Cabernet Franc 5%; Petit Verdot 5% & Malbec 5%  
Magnums available

**VINTAGE CONDITIONS**

The 2022 vintage will definitely be remembered as the year of a good fruit set. After pruning, budburst came about two weeks later than expected. This resulted in flowering occurring in a period with cooler temperatures. More berries per vine meant a good balance between reproductive and vegetative growth, and, with restricted pruning to allow for a certain tonnage per hectare, the leaves are not overburdened. Mild conditions allowed the vines to catch up nicely with warm days after veraison. The heat before harvest is very important for the development of red cultivars and especially for the premium quality Cabernet Sauvignon.

**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 open-top stainless-steel 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. Aged for 14 months in 300-Litre French and American oak barrels (10% new). A small portion (5%) was matured in a concrete egg for 8 months.

**AWARDS**

DWWA: Silver

Tim Atkin MW: 90 pts

Decanter: 92 pts

**ATTRIBUTES**

**Origin**

South Africa


**Variety**

Red Blend


**Malolactic Fermentation**

Yes


**Bottle Size**

75cl


**Vegetarian**

Yes


**ERNIE ELS WINES**



Winemaker

Louis Strydom



Fining Agent

None



Closure



Region

Western Cape



Vegan

Yes