SECKFORD AGENCIES

PROPRIETOR'S BLEND, ERNIE ELS

ERNIE ELS WINES

Vintage 2022



A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot.

TASTING NOTE

Opaque crimson. Opens with savoury intensity, charred meat, black cedar, cassis, hints of balsamic and crushed juniper. The aromatics follow onto the palate weaving through a dark heart of blackcurrant, flowing to ruby-bright pomegranate. The fruit carries along a crystalline acidity, the tannins tight and focused. Sumptuous with fruited depth. Cabernet Sauvignon 60%; Shiraz 30%; Merlot 10%

VINTAGE CONDITIONS

The 2022 vintage will definitely be remembered as the year with 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 means a good balance between reproductive and vegetative growth, restricted pruning allows for a certain tonnage per hectare, and 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 of the Cabernet Sauvignon.

VINIFICATION DETAILS

The grapes were hand-harvested in the cool of the early morning. Whole berries were fermented in Nico Velo concrete tanks with intermittent pump-overs and punch-downs to ensure a balance between flavour, colour and tannin extraction from the skins. The Shiraz component was partially whole bunch fermented to aid with flavour complexity. All ferments were meticulously monitored to ensure that the natural aromas and flavours were preserved. After primary fermentation, some tanks underwent extended maceration. Each variety was matured separately in oak before final blending and bottling.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Alcohol	Residual sugar
14.0	2.5
pH	**Acidity**
3.61	5.9

AWARDS

DWWA: Gold 96 pts

ATTRIBUTES

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

Winemaker	Fining Agent	Closure	Region	Vegan
Louis Strydom	None	Cork	Stellenbosch	Yes