



## BIG EASY RED BLEND 2017

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### THE 2017 VINTAGE

The previous growing season had its challenges, which seemed to roll over into the 2016/2017 growing season with the continuation of the drought. Winter 2016 was quite dry with even less rain than the previous year and spring was an illusion as we seemingly went straight into summer. The dry conditions did, however, lead to the grapes being healthy overall. With moderate, but warm days during December and January, we saw the start of harvest return to its normal date. The uninterrupted warmth enabled the grapes to reach optimal ripeness.

### VITICULTURE

The Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Mourvèdre, Grenache and Viognier were sourced from selected vineyard parcels on the Helderberg Mountain within the Stellenbosch appellation. The typical soils found on the Helderberg provide a rich middle-palate weight, giving the wine exceptional depth and fruit purity. The Cinsault grapes were sourced from a specific vineyard site planted with 26-year-old dryland bush vines in the Perdeberg region.

### VINICULTURE

The grapes are hand-harvesting in the cool of the early morning. Whole berries are fermented in open top tanks and barrels with intermittent pump-overs and punch-downs to ensure a balance between flavour, colour and tannin extraction from the skins. All ferments are meticulously monitored to ensure that all the natural aromas and flavours are preserved. After primary fermentation, some tanks will undergo extended maceration. Each variety is matured separately in oak before final blending.

### TASTING NOTES

The 2017 Big Easy Red Blend is arguably the most serious and riveting vintage yet. The dry vintage was conducive to producing a superbly-concentrated, beguiling wine that dazzles the senses. Complexity is revealed with elegantly ripe black berry, liquorice, fine Chinese spice and smoked herbs. A majority of Shiraz cloaks the palate with fruit-laden tannins, covered in melted milk chocolate and Morello cherries. It shows solid grip, suggesting up to a decade of maturation.

### AWARDS

Sommeliers' Selection – (Elegant and Classy)  
Vitis Vinifera – Gold  
Wine Mag – 92 Points (Signature Report)

### TECHNICAL DATA

Shiraz 60%; Cabernet Sauvignon 20%; Grenache 5%; Mourvèdre 5%; Cinsault 5% and Viognier 5%  
Alc 14.56% by Vol. – R.S. 2.8 g/l – T.A. 5.8 g/l – pH 3.65  
Aged for 14 months in older oak barrels – 80% in 300 litre French Oak barrels and 20% in 300 litre American Oak barrels

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION		CASE QTY	CURRENT VINTAGE	ALCOHOL %	
Ernie Els Big Easy Red Blend		6 bottles	2017	14,0	
BOTTLE	BOTTLE SIZE	UPC BOTTLE BARCODE	BOTTLE DIMENSIONS (Height x Diameter   Weight)		
	750 ml	6009807940483	310 mm (h) x 76.9 mm (d)   620 g		
CASE	CASE DIMENSIONS (Height x Length x Width)	SCC CASE BARCODE	CASE WEIGHT	NUMBER OF 6 x 750ml CASES PER LAYER	NUMBER OF LAYERS PER PALLET
	331 mm x 160 mm x 242 mm	6009807940476	8.5 Kg	28	4