

RUST EN VREDE

STELLENBOSCH

ESTATE VINEYARDS SYRAH 2022

100% Syrah

W.O. Stellenbosch

Established in 1694, Rust en Vrede is proud to be part of a remarkable three hundred year old wine tradition. Since 1977 the Engelbrecht family has specialized in the exclusive production of red wine, with the focus on Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Proprietor Jean Engelbrecht has worked to maintain Rust en Vrede as one of South Africa's premium red wine estates, with full-bodied and complex wines that reflect the uniqueness of its Stellenbosch terroir.



CLIMATE AND SOIL

Rust en Vrede is a warmer microcosm in the Helderberg area with a Mediterranean climate. This is why we specialize in Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah which lend themselves to full-bodied wines with powerful structure. Approximately 34% of the Estate is planted with Syrah. Five clones of this variety are grown here: SH1, SH21, SH9, SH99 and SH470. Our north-facing vineyards are planted in Tukulu soil, derived from Helderberg granite and Table Mountain sandstone with small deposits of ironstone, showing good water retention that is carefully monitored and supplemented by drip irrigation. A higher amount of sandstone allows good drainage, resulting in weaker growth and more intense wines.

VINTAGE

A typical winter in 2021 with good rainfall at an average of 150mm rain each month from May to August replenished water reserves, and cold units were very good. Budbreak was slightly later than usual, but higher than normal rainfall at critical times during flowering and fruit set was good for our vineyards. January was warm and dry, with a few heat waves which were good conditions for the Syrah, mitigating sunburn with good canopy management. Temperate conditions during harvest meant that the Syrah ripened evenly with deep colour. The vintage of 2022 was moderate with an average crop size of excellent quality. The Rust en Vrede wines from this vintage show good colour, intensity, and promise for aging.

VINIFICATION

Estate grown grapes are hand-harvested and partially destemmed, with 15% of the grapes kept as whole bunches. Fermentation takes place in open-top fermenters with manual punch-downs and pump-overs performed 2 to 4 times daily. Maceration continues for 14 to 21 days. Parcels and clones are vinified separately. Wine is matured in 500L French oak barrels for 18 months using a combination of 16% new and 84% seasoned oak.

TASTING NOTES

Deep, intense ruby with prominent aromas of juicy black cherry, blueberries and blackcurrant prominent. Perfumed notes of violet mingle with savoury aromas of leather, sandalwood and nutmeg. Elegant and structured on the palate with ripe, refined tannins and balanced acidity. Intense black fruit follows through, with complex flavours of black pepper, cinnamon, cured meat, and paprika adding depth. Refined and expressive with a lingering black cherry finish.

Harvest Date: 11 Mar - 22 Mar 2022

Bottling: November 2023

Release: February 2025

Ageability: 10 to 15 years

Date Tasted: 21 January 2025

Alcohol 14.16%

pH 3.55

Acidity 6.0

RS 1.9 g/l