



ERNIE ELS WINES

(STELLENBOSCH, WESTERN CAPE)

www.ernieelswines.com

Since its launch more than a decade ago Ernie Els Wines has established a magnificent portfolio of South African red wines, housed under three separate brands to offer quality wines for everyone at various different price-points. Ernie himself is passionate about wine and is very much involved in the tasting process. In partnership with experienced winemaker Louis Strydom their shared passion for wine is reflected in the quality of the product right across the price ranges.

Ernie Els Signature 2016

CSPC# 721147

6x750ml

14.92% alc./vol.

Producing a wine made up of five Bordeaux varieties to reflect the unique diversity of the Stellenbosch terroir. This wine, made by cellar master Louis Strydom, is Ernie Els and Jean Engelbrecht's vision to produce an exceptional wine, reflecting their respective commitment to quality.

Chemical Analysis Acidity 6.3 g/l pH: 3.60 Residual Sugar 2.4 g/l

Grape Variety 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Malbec,
5% Cabernet Franc

Region Stellenbosch, South Africa

Winemaker Louis Strydom

Green Credentials Accredited Integrated Production of Wine (IPW) estate.

Vintage Challenging conditions led to a reduced wine grape crop for South African producers in 2016, but grapes were healthy and concentrated flavours promise good wines. The weather was very warm, especially from the end of October towards the end of January, which restricted the growth and constituted lower bunch masses and smaller berries. However, the dry conditions led to the vineyards and grapes being very healthy overall. Spring came on time and the weather conditions were ideal which led to good, even bud burst. The harvest period started a week early due to the warmer weather and it ended about two weeks earlier.

Vineyards All fruit was sourced from the Ernie Els Wines property whose vineyards grow on the warm north-facing slopes of the Helderberg region within the Stellenbosch appellation. The Hutton Clovelly soils contain a high gravel content which offers rich middle palate weight giving this wine exceptional depth and fruit purity. Each variety is separately managed to create unique and varied flavour profiles for this classic, 'Medoc-style', Bordeaux blend. With an altitude of approximately 250 metres above sea level together with the cooling influence of the Atlantic Ocean just 15 kilometres away, this extends the ripening period by up to 3 weeks resulting in lovely phenolic ripeness.

Harvest The grapes are hand-picked in the cool of early morning.

Vinification Whole berries are fermented in open top tanks and barrels with intermittent pump-overs and punch downs to ensure a balance between flavor, colour and tannin extraction from the skins. All ferments are meticulously monitored during fermentation to ensure that all the natural aromas and flavours are preserved and highlighted as required. After primary fermentation some tanks and barrel will undergo extended maceration as required

Maturation Aged for 20 months – 300 litre French Oak barrels (70% new)

Cellaring This is not the most powerful of Ernie Els Signature's, but it perhaps holds the most impressive structure and will provide for long aging ahead. Enjoy now through to 2027+.



Tasting Notes	Notes of menthol and a touch of eucalyptus add a fresh counter point to the dark, brooding fruit, typical of this vintage. Warm oak notes add gravitas and a luxurious attraction to the nose. It leads to a palate that teems with rich fruit and notes of cherry tobacco, with a further herbal edge and grippy lead pencil on the finish. A touch leaner than other vintages, this wine is nonetheless sumptuous, with dry, defined tannins and a silky, yet serious end. It will require a year or so for the lick of oak to amalgamate.
Serve with	Beef Tenderloin, sumac studded, duck sauce, turnip gratin. Also great with game meats, lamb.
Production	2150 x 6pk cases
Scores/Awards	93 points (4.5 stars) - Meryl Weaver, <i>Platter's South African Wine Guide 2023</i> 93 points - Tim Atkin MW <i>Special South Africa Report 2021</i> Silver Medal - Decanter World Wine Awards
Reviews	<i>"Ripe & more powerfully styled flagship blend in 2016. Ample mouth filling dark fruit from 5-way Bordeaux blend, majority cab & merlot (60/25). 70% new oak, 20 months, as foil for dense fruit, though big alc (14.9%) evident. Deserves cellar time, though will peak earlier than more distinguished & structured 2015 (5 stars, 96 pts)"</i> - MW, <i>Platters Wine Guide</i> <i>"The flagship bottling from Ernie Els features all five Bordeaux grapes, with Cabernet Sauvignon assisted by 40% Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Ripe and figgy, with smooth tannins, toasty 70% new wood, liquorice and dried herbs and a firm finish."</i> - Tim Atkin
