



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 Cabernet Sauvignon “Major Series” 2017

CSPC# 755117

12x750ml

14.43% alc./vol.

Chemical Analysis Acidity 5.9 g/l pH: 3.63 Residual Sugar 3.2 g/l

Grape Variety

92.6% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7.4% Petit Verdot

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. Spring was an illusion as we basically went straight into warmer summer days. Bud burst was good due to sufficient soil moisture, but with the warmer spring/summer weather the soil started losing moisture quickly which naturally reduced shoot growth. The vineyard then naturally focuses its energy on developing and ripening the small bunches. Smaller berries led to more concentrated colour and flavour. The dry conditions also led to the vineyards and grapes being very 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 during harvest also helped the bunches reach optimal ripeness while the berries steadily developed its flavours over a slightly longer period of time. The white wines from the 2017 vintage appear astoundingly good, with great structure and good flavours.

Vineyards

The Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot 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. 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.

Vinification & Maturation

Different hand-picked bunches of the various Cabernet Sauvignon clones, as planted on the estate, arrive at the winery. Great care is taken to ensure that all clones from various block are kept separate. The bunches are sorted, destemmed and berries are sorted again via an optical sorted.

The whole berries are fermented in open top tanks. Premium selection grapes from selected parcels within the various clonal blocks are fermented in smaller open fermenters. Intermittent pump-overs and punch downs ensure that right flavours, aromas and tannins are extracted from the berries. All ferments are meticulously monitored during fermentation to ensure the right balance between flavours and tannins are achieved. After primary fermentation, some tanks will undergo extended maceration if required. Each clonal batch of Cabernet is matured separately (microvinified) in oak barrels before blending. All these different batches and the various characteristic of the Cabernet clones makes up the final blend of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Aged for 17 months in 300 litre French Oak barrels (20% new)

Sustainability Initiative: I.P.W. (Integrated Production of Wine) Certified



Tasting Notes Red berry fruits billow from the glass with classic cigar notes over elegant crushed dried herbs, black cherry and ripe plums with red cherry freshness. The entry is inviting, fresh with a vibrant youthful energy of bouncy red fruit and an earthy undertow. The tannins are still tight, medium bodied and fresh expressing the crystalline character of the 2017 vintage. As the wine evolves in the glass there is an attractive tension between red and black fruit with a hint of liquorice over a linear focused and dry finish.

Serve with Port wine braised beef short ribs. Cabernet-braised venison cheeks. Smoked Beef fillet with Salsa Verde.

Cellaring Drink 2020-2024

Scores/Awards **94 points (4.5*)** - Greg Mutambe, John Platter's Guide to South African Wines, 2021

95 points - Decanter Magazine, September 2020

92 points - Christian Eedes, WineMag.co.za, 2020

91 points - Tim Atkin

88 points - Anthony Mueller, Robert Parker, January 2021

Double Gold Medal - Veritas 2020

Gold Medal - Vitis Vinifera

Top 20 Cape Cabernet Sauvignon's - Decanter Magazine, September 2020

Top 10 - Prescient Cabernet Sauvignon Report, September 2020

Reviews *"Lovely rich fruit depth in 2017 with dark spice & cedar overlay, fine-grained tannins & restrained oaking, just 10% new. A dab of petit verdot adds complexity & gravitas. Delicious now but without doubt a keeper."*

- GM, John Platter's Guide to South African Wines

"Famous South African golfer Ernie Els retains a share in this winery, but it is now predominantly German-owned, with 100% Cabernet Sauvignon set to be a particular focus. This vintage (8% Petit Verdot) combines fruit power with detail. Aromatics of blue and black fruit, some attractive herbal character plus oak spice on a plush and smooth-textured palate. Drinking Window 2020 - 2027."

- Decanter, 95/100

"92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Petit Verdot. Matured for 17 months in French oak, 30% new. A deep and compelling nose of cassis, some leafiness, sea breeze and a touch of boot polish. The palate meanwhile is lean but not too lean, grippy but not too grippy – really nicely observed on the part of the winemaking team."

- CE, WineMag.co.za

"The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Major Series begins with a straightforward nose of fresh red and black berry essence with hints of cocoa nibs, sweet herbal notes and walnut skin nuances. Medium-bodied, the wine has a youthful approachability with lifting tannins and ends with a lingering finish, offering persistent flavors of bitter dark chocolate and black cherry."

- AM, Robert Parker

"92% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Petit Verdot. Matured for 20 months in French oak, 40% new. Aromatics of blue and black fruit, some attractive herbal character plus oak spice. Very rich and full yet still wonderfully detailed on the palate – this has a dense core of fruit to with smooth tannins and makes a big impression."

- Winemag Prescient Cabernet Sauvignon Report 2020, Top 10
