



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 Proprietor's Blend (formerly Englebrecht Els) 2016

CSPC# 721146

6x750ml

14.84% alc./vol.

Chemical Analysis Acidity 5.96 g/l pH: 3.68 Residual Sugar 3.21 g/l
Grape Variety 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Shiraz, 5% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec, 5% Petit Verdot

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 The Proprietor's Blend is a blend of six varieties that are grown on the property. These vineyards grow on the warm, north-facing slopes of the Helderberg region within the Stellenbosch appellation. These particular varieties thrive under these conditions and result in rich, full-bodied red wines. With an altitude of approximately 250 metres above sea level, together with the cooling influence of the Atlantic Ocean, the ripening period can be extended, resulting in wines with phenolic ripeness.

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

Maturation 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. Aged for 18 months. 95% in 300 litre French Oak barrels (35% new) and 5% in 300 litre American Oak barrels (30% new)

Cellaring American and French oak is finely woven into the long finish, providing layers for further of aging potential over 10 years.



Tasting Notes The Proprietor's Blend is once again impressive and serious in 2016. Medium to full-bodied, it is strewn with black fruits, exotic spice and shards of dark chocolate. Sweet, spicy oak melts into a dense, powerfully fruited and structured core. The majority Cabernet Sauvignon gives a cassis purity and salty edge, while the Shiraz component adds a meaty, savoury and spicy edge. The blend is rounded off by the remaining Bordeaux cultivars in a complexity explosion from start to finish. It is exquisitely textured and finely tuned. The 2016 will open up over the next 5 years and age for a decade or more.

Scores/Awards **5* stars (96 points)** - Greg Mutambe, Platter's South African Wine Guide 2020
92 points - Tim Atkin MW, Special South Africa Report 2019
Silver Medal - International Wine & Spirits Competition 2019

Reviews *"Magnificent 5-way Bordeaux blend with 20% shiraz. 2016 improves on 2015 (4.5 stars, 93 pts) with mulberry, blackcurrant in harmony with dark spice, savoury conclusion, fine tannin support. Somewhat formidable in youth, with hefty alcohol, 25% new oak. Give it plenty of time."*

- GM, wineonaplatter.com

"2016 wasn't an easy vintage, but Louis Strydom has handled the conditions well, producing a wine that's serious, deeply coloured, yet well balanced."

- TA, timatkin.com
