



# MEERLUST

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

### TERROIR

This Cabernet Sauvignon is a true expression of the variety as grown on the Meerlust estate and draws fruit from three of our four distinct terroirs namely -

**Compagniesdrift** - The soils from this warm north facing slope are predominantly formed from weathered granite. The wines originating from this granitic hilltop are expressive and bold in structure, mainly due to the coarse gravelly texture and sufficient soil depth to promote long and even ripening.

**The Quarry** - The extremely rocky terrain consisting of greywacke with interbedded shales provides a unique substrate for vines. Shallow rooted vines on this cool and windswept foot slope leads to wines with characteristic red fruit with exceptional length, detail, and precision.

**River Terraces** - Sandy soils laced with rounded river stones allow for excellent root proliferation. This area of the Estate experiences the greatest shift between day and night temperatures, promoting flavour development of these delicate and fruit forward wines.

### SEASON

The 2020 post-harvest period was characterised by very hot and dry conditions, which led to early leaf fall. The winter rainfall started late, but regular cold fronts contributed almost 100 mm more precipitation than in the previous season. Soil profiles were well saturated and farm dams returned to pre-drought levels. The budding period was particularly cool and wet, and low soil temperatures delayed bud break by up to 14 days. Despite sustained cool conditions, the flowering and fruit set periods were moderate and ideal. Véraison followed the seasonal trend and was generally up to 14 days later than the previous season. Ripening was consistently about 10-14 days later than the previous year, and the ripening period was very moderate. This resulted in good hang times, minimal harvesting pressure and allowed for optimum picking. Although yields are lower, the grape composition and preliminary wine quality of the 2021 vintage showed immediate promise. The wines have intensity and freshness coupled with a fine tannin structure.

### VINIFICATION

This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon is produced from three very distinct parcels on the farm. Blocks were hand-picked and vinified separately and racked straight to barrel for 6 months where the components underwent malolactic fermentation. After this initial time in barrel, the final selection for the wine was made, the components racked and blended, and the final wine was moved back to barrel for further 12 months of maturation. 50 % new French oak was used in the maturation.

### TASTING NOTES

Very deep, youthful colour with an intense garnet hue. It offers aromas of red and black fruit, cedarwood and graphite combined with oyster shell and kelp typical to our Cabernets'. Still young and intense, the palate is structured and packed with ripe blue berries and wonderfully elegant tannins. Dark chocolate and salted liquorice on the finish. This is a classic and elegant vintage and will provide great complexity with further maturation. **Ageing Potential** – 10 - 15 years, provided wine is stored in ideal cellar conditions

### ANALYSIS

Residual sugar	: 2.16 g/l.
pH	: 3.5
Total acidity	: 5.76 g/l.
Alcohol	: 13.71vol %