

Keermont

s t e l l e n b o s c h

Keermont Merlot 2016

Varietals: 86% Merlot; 7% Malbec; 7% Cabernet Sauvignon

All grapes used in producing our wines are grown on Keermont Vineyards. Most of the vineyard parcels grow on deep red clay rich soil derived from sandstone and granite and are surrounded by indigenous vegetation. They lie between 250 and 400 metres above sea level in the valley between the Stellenbosch and Helderberg mountain ranges and have a variety of aspects from North East to West facing.

Small batches of grapes are specifically selected according to ripeness, harvested by hand and vinified separately. This process is carried out gently and naturally in open top fermenters using traditional methods only. This wine spent 20 months maturing in seasoned French oak barrels before being bottled by hand without filtration on 31 October 2017. A total of 7746 bottles (646 cases) were produced.

Tasting note: The Keermont Merlot 2016 has a deep ruby red colour. Ripe red fruit and liqueur cherry aromas are complimented by classic dusty herb and thatch notes. The palate is dense, but soft. The wine shows good weight with dusty savoury fruit character. Chalky tannins and good natural acid help to maintain a fresh elegance and a long, succulent dry finish. Best drinking: 2018-2028.

2016 Vintage notes:

The 2016 vintage started with a very moderate winter with below average rainfall. Spring came early and was also relatively warm and dry and we started to irrigate earlier than usual. The weather continued to warm up towards Christmas and we experienced average maximum temperatures of 30°C and 35°C for December and January respectively! Fortunately, we had some rain during December which pepped the vines up leading into the critical 'Veraison' period over Christmas and into January. This is when the berries change colour and begin to ripen and is a high water-demand period.

With all the hot, dry weather the grapes ripened quickly and we started picking earlier than ever before on 19 January. We had a crazy month of harvesting where we processed 78 tons of grapes from the farm including 11 different varieties. Harvest ended as quickly as it had begun and by 19 February we had picked all of the grapes for Keermont wines of 2016.

Analysis:

WINE	Alc %	pH	TA g/L	RS g/L	TSO ₂ mg/L	VA g/L
Keermont Merlot 2016	14.5	3.70	4.9	2.6	88	0.73

Block	Variety	Planted	Yield	% of blend
Homestead	Merlot	2007	5.7 ton/Ha	86%
Homestead	Malbec	2007	7.4 ton/Ha	7%
Cottage Lane	Cabernet Sauvignon	2006	4.2 ton/Ha	7%

KEERMONT VINEYARDS (PTY) LTD

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