

Le Riche

STELLENBOSCH | SOUTH AFRICA



Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

2003

Origin:	Stellenbosch
Wards:	Jonkershoek, Firgrove
Blend:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Maturation:	24 months in 43% new French oak barrels

Viticulture:

Soil	Decomposed granite (Hutton), Sandy gravel
Aspect	South, South West
Distance from the ocean	20 km, 5 km
Altitude	200 m, 100 m
Vine age	8 years, 6 years
Rootstocks	R110, R110
Harvest dates	12 March, 20 February

Winemaking:

Reserve status is only endowed if the grapes and resulting wine measures up to exceptional standard. Hand selected grapes from older, lower yielding vines are used. Fermentation is done with a selected yeast strain under controlled temperatures. Manual plunging during this period ensures optimal colour extraction.

After five days the tanks are closed and allowed to macerate for a further period, normally 10-14 days. Pressing follows and the wine is transferred to tanks and barrel for the secondary (malolactic) fermentation. On completion a final quality check and analysis is performed and the Reserve is then transferred to barrel for ageing. Bottling is followed by hand labelling and further bottle maturation.

Tasting Notes:

This full bodied wine is remarkably aromatic with layers of clean sweet cedary oak. On the palate it is supple, succulent and rich. The tannins are firm but not aggressive and there is underlying structure and fruit in the wine that promises even more complexity with further maturation in the bottle

Analysis:

Alc 14.11 % vol	pH 3.72	TA 6.28 g/l	RS 1.8 g/l (Dry)
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Accolades:

- John Platter - 4½ stars
- South African Airways - best red wine and Winemaker of the year award
- Listed in Neil Becket's book: 1001 wines to drink before you die

