

Keermont

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

Keermont Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

Keermont Cabernet Sauvignon grows in our Cottage Lane Vineyard on the mid-slopes of the Helderberg. This vineyard is situated on the crest of a ridge (320m above sea level) so has aspects ranging from East through North to West. It is very exposed resulting in small vines with low yields. This has allowed us to make a relatively fine grained Cabernet, but the clay soils translate to a wine with power, tension and fresh acidity. We blend in a couple of barrels of other varieties to add to the complexity of flavour and tannin structure.

All grapes used in producing our wines are grown on Keermont Vineyards. Most of the vineyard parcels grow on deep red clay-rich soils derived from sandstone and granite and are surrounded by indigenous 'fynbos' vegetation. Our vineyards are planted on steep mid-slopes in the valley between the Stellenbosch and Helderberg mountain ranges. Aspects vary from North East through North to West facing between 250 and 400 meters above sea level.

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 22 months maturing in seasoned French oak barriques before being bottled by hand without filtration on 17 November 2017. 8133 bottles and 51 magnums were produced. The Keermont Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 was bottle aged in our cellar for 18 months before release to ensure integration and improved drinkability on release.

Tasting note: *Bright, ruby red colour. The nose is classical and dusty with a complex mix of savoury notes: crushed herbs, violets, dark chocolate, and some lovely bright red fruit. The palate is fine and elegant with a lovely subtle vibrancy. Savoury notes of tomato paste and tea leaf add character to the bright red strawberry and cherry flavours. Tight-knit tannin and a gentle natural acidity afford the wine a long succulent finish with lingering ripe fruit flavour. Drink 2019-2030*

Previous releases:

CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2015 TIM ATKIN (MW) 93pts; PLATTER GUIDE 4 stars; NEAL MARTIN 91 pts
CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2014 NEAL MARTIN (WA) 91 pts; TIM ATKIN (MW) 93 pts; DECANTER 91 pts

Vintage report:

The 2016 vintage was a challenging one for the vineyard team. It started with moderate winter temperatures and 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 of the hot, dry weather the grapes ripened quickly and we started picking earlier than ever before (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.

Analysis

WINE	Alc %	pH	TA g/L	RS g/L	TSO ₂ mg/L	VA g/L
Keermont Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 unofficial	14.0%	3.56	5.1	1.5	104	0.68

Block	Variety	Clones	Planted	Yield ton/Ha	% of blend
Cottage Lane	Cabernet Sauvignon	CS23&33/101-14	2006	4.5 ton/Ha	87%
Homestead 2	Malbec	MC71/101-14	2007	7.4 ton/Ha	7%
Pondok Rug 3	Cabernet Franc	CF214/101-14	2007	4.6 ton/Ha	6%

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