



Spice Route

2007 FLAGSHIP SYRAH

Five centuries ago the ancient mariners braved uncharted seas to round the Cape of Good Hope in search of exotic spices. Their nerve and dash inspire the Spice Route philosophy. We have found our signature wine style in the rolling hills along the Cape's West Coast, where unirrigated vines produce grapes with small thick skinned berries – ripe fruit that is dense, rich and full flavoured. A passionate dedication to exceptional quality and traditional hand crafting captures the essence of this fruit in the wines of the Spice Route.

IN THE VINEYARD: The grapes for our Flagship Syrah are harvested from cordon pruned vines near Malmesbury, in the Swartland. The vineyard is on a South facing slope, at an altitude of about 150m above sea level. Cool breezes result in cold night time temperatures. The vines are planted on deep red ferrous Oakleaf soils. These are suitable for dry land viticulture as they hold moisture well, due to their clay content. In 2007 this premium Syrah vineyard yielded an average of 5 tons per hectare.

HARVEST DATE: Mid February 2007

WINEMAKING: The fruit was hand-picked at 26 degrees balling, and hand sorted over sorting tables. Extended skin contact was allowed and the juice was fermented in open topped oak fermenters, with hand punching daily. The wine was basket pressed and transferred to French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation and maturation. The wine spent 20 months in 225l French oak barriques, with 50% new wood being used.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS: This vineyard continues to produce fantastic fruit year to year. The wine is in a modern layered style, expressive of the Swartland and showing a good balance of spicy fruit.
Charl du Plessis

TASTING NOTE: Intense aromas of cedar and cherries layered with notes of liquorice and white pepper. The palate reveals darker fleshy fruit and structured tannins, medium weight and an elegant finish. Will benefit from another 5 years in the bottle.

RECOGNITION: PREVIOUS VINTAGES:

- 2006: Gold Medal – Decanter World Wine Awards 2009
- 2005: Great Gold Medal – Concours Mondial de Bruxelles 2008
- 2005: Gold Medal – Decanter World Wine Awards 2008
- 2005: 90 points – Wine Spectator
- 2004: 92 points – Wine Spectator
- 2004: Gold Medal – Concours Mondial de Bruxelles 2007
- 2003: 90 points – Wine Spectator

Wine of Origin Swartland
Alcohol 15% | Residual Sugar 2.7 g/l | Total Acid 6.0 g/l | pH 3.39