



RADFORD DALE®

SYRAH 2014

IN THE VINEYARDS

Both vineyards that produce this exceptional Syrah are planted on soils derived from granite. The older of the two vineyards (now 24 years old) is rooted in a particularly rocky variety of decomposed granite known locally as “Koffie Klip”. The second is on a crunchy less decomposed granite. This imparts to the wine an elegant and refined character while the temperate Summers of Stellenbosch allow the grapes to ripen slowly and evenly, allowing for depth of flavour and great balance. The winter that preceded the 2014 harvest was rather dry but very cold, this meant even budding and slow but steady growth of the canopies. During the ripening period nights were quite cool as opposed to the high daytime temperatures experienced during January 2014. This meant that the fruit ripened with much intensity and concentration.

IN THE CELLAR

Grapes were picked by hand in the cool of the morning and then hand sorted with particular focus on excluding any raisins or berries which had seen too much sun so that the natural purity of the fruit could be highlighted. From there the grapes were destemmed and lightly crushed and left to “cold soak” for three days at low temperatures. A small portion (20%) of the fruit was fermented as whole bunches in an open top fermenter. This process highlights the spiciness of the variety and brings delicate floral aromas to the final blend. Natural fermentation with no addition of yeast was employed so that the wine express the site and the vintage instead of having a pre determined set aromas and flavours. The wine was pressed soon after the fermentation was completed and transferred to barrel. Malolactic fermentation took place in barrel. Barrel matured for about 19 months, then assembled into one tank, which was settled in our cold cellar for almost 2 months before bottling. No fining and bottled without filtration..

A NOTE FROM THE WINEMAKER

Over the space of many vintages in The Cape, Syrah has proven itself well suited to the soils and the climate of our beloved Helderberg. With our vines maturing nicely we are seeing wines of elegance, depth and restraint, while also allowing the unique aspects of the terroir to shine. The wine shows a fantastically enticing nose with oriental spice notes and dark fruit complexity. Fine black pepper and soy sauce notes over a dark fruit core form the focal point of the palate while the grainy texture of adds grip before a lovely fresh finish.

TECHNICAL BITS

VARIETY	Syrah
APPELLATION	<i>Stellenbosch, South Africa</i>
ANALYSIS	Alcohol 13.5%vol
	Total acidity 6.4g/L
	pH 3.59
	Residual Sugar 1.7g/L
PRODUCTION	887 cases (12 x 750ml)



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