

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

TERROIR SPECIFIC WINES

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE SNEEUWKRANS PINOT NOIR 2015

AVERAGE TEMP: 15.1°C

RAINFALL: 706.5mm

HARVESTING BEGAN: 04/03/2015

HARVESTING ENDED: 06/03/2015

ORIGIN OF FRUIT: Elandskloof - Overberg

SOIL TYPE: Tukulu. Decomposed shale (greywacke)

YIELD: 6ton/ha

THE VINEYARD: Altima is situated in the Elandskloof, an isolated valley north of Villiersdorp. The valley is 5km wide and is surrounded by a steep mountain range that rises 1km from the valley floor. The steep topography causes the valley to receive less direct sunlight due to the overshadowing mountains, which together with the elevation of 600 to 800m equates to a very cool climate for the valley. This unique terroir produces wines with a high natural acidity and upfront aromas. Grapes are harvested much later than other sites in the Western Cape, with the harvest usually starting early in March. This vineyard produces an intense Pinot noir character with rich red fruit and a very fine and layered structure.

WINEMAKING: This vineyard was picked in 2 stages, the bottom part of the vineyard separate to the top part. The reason is a slight difference in ripening and different clones, each contributing to a range of flavours and structure. Grapes were hand-picked into small lug-boxes in the early morning and transported to the cellar in refrigerated trucks.

All the fruit was de-stemmed and then fermented in old wooden tanks and small 1ton open top stainless steel tanks. These grapes were worked very gently during fermentation and after fermentation the wine was aged in old 225l French oak barrels for 10 months before being bottled. Bottle-aged for 2 years.

TASTING NOTES: Shy notes of forest floor, autumn leaves and mushroom with red berry fruit whiffs and some spice.

The palate is deceptively light-bodied and soft on entry – with reticent bright red berry flavours. Then the wine reveals its firm core of dark, nuanced brambles and blackcurrant with smoky oak flavours. Pronounced but gentle grip of tannin from oak which is well integrated. Ephemeral, elegant and lithe with a long, refined tail.

