



This is a salute to the Saboteurs!

The Anarchists. The Revolutionaries. To those who break the rules and defy the status quo. The Craftsmen. The Artists. The Pioneers. Those who do not bow down and conform; nor blindly accept. Those whose passion bleeds through their art. The Pioneers who forge ahead with insight, wisdom and vision, challenging the norm and questioning convention. Those who are driven by their knowledge and their belief in a better way. Those who stand up to be counted! Luddites, fight your cause, provoke, remonstrate, interrogate. Be true to yourselves, your art, your craft. Lead the way.

Unite! - Saluez Le Saboteur!

Saboteur 2019 Red Blend

2019 is the fifth consecutive dry vintage with very little rainfall. Due to the heat and lack of rain, we picked slightly earlier to obtain better natural acidity. This vintage is also characterised by a large percentage of Grenache Noir giving the wine a lighter, fresher, fruitier feel. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache Noir were all fermented in small batches in open bins with quite a lot of whole bunch and stalks in the Grenache Noir. The larger batches of Mourvèdre and Shiraz were fermented in stainless steel tanks with regular pump overs. All the components were pressed directly into barrel and aged separately. Some of the batches did malolactic fermentation in barrel which gives a fuller mouth feel and structure. This vintage was in barrel for 20 months with 20% new French Oak.

During the blending process, great care was taken to follow the house style of Saboteur, which is increasingly building up a huge following, ie. bold fruit, good spice and soft tannins. The blend this year is 60% Shiraz, 20% Mourvèdre, 13% Grenache Noir and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon. A small portion of the Grenache Noir is from the 2020 vintage which lifts the freshness and red fruit spectrum of this wine.

Grapes were sourced from nine vineyard sites:

- Bot River, Luddite young block Cabernet Sauvignon harvested on 19th February 2019
- Bot River, Stuart Vineyards Shiraz harvested on 22nd February 2019
- Walker Bay, Ou Meul Shiraz harvested on 22nd February 2019
- Bot River, Gabriëlskloof Cabernet Sauvignon harvested on 1st March 2019
- Bot River, Gabriëlskloof Shiraz harvested on 1st March 2019
- Walker Bay, Ou Meul Cabernet Sauvignon harvested on 1st March 2019
- Bot River, Luddite young block Mourvèdre harvested on 13th March 2019
- Bot River, Gabriëlskloof Mourvèdre harvested on 13th March 2019
- Bot River, Anysbos Grenache Noir harvested on 25th February 2019
- Bot River, Anysbos Grenache Noir harvested on 24th February 2020

Average analysis of fruit at harvest

23.4° Balling, TA – 6.6 g/l, pH – 3.48

Tasting Notes

Appearance: Garnet & Rubi red.

Nose: Spicy, raspberry, floral, fresh red cherries with a touch of strawberry.

Palate: Juicy red fruit on entry with touch of aniseed. Spicy on back pallet with fresh, clean tannin finish. Lingering red fruit on the aftertaste.

Analysis of the wine

Alcohol: 14.66% pH: 3.58 TA: 5.1 g/l RS: 2.0 g/l

TBC: 16 100 bottles of this vintage were produced (7 000 cork, 9 100 crown cap & 515 magnums)

Tasting notes dated 14th December 2021.