

vilafonté

Seriously Old Dirt 2022

Vibrant & Lively

Seriously Old Dirt 2022 exhibits a deep ruby colour. This Cabernet Sauvignon dominant blend exudes delicate floral notes elegantly layered with rich, expressive red and black fruit; blackcurrant, black plum, dark cherry and raspberry float energetically from the glass. Spicy cinnamon stick and subtle clove add further dimension and complexity to a vibrant fruit profile. Entry onto the palate is smooth and a plush, silky texture persists on the mid-palate where the concentrated black fruit interlaced with dark chocolate has an energetic presence. A firm but balanced structure gives gentle palate weight, with long-lasting savoury spice on the finish. Satin-like tannins coupled with fresh acidity adds liveliness to this medium-bodied wine, allowing immediate enjoyment and will continue to give pleasure for five to ten years.

The Vintage

Challenging, yet filled with optimism.

The first fruit harvested for Seriously Old Dirt still comes from our property in Paarl. Much like the season experienced in Paarl, the 2022 vintage at large was characterized by a cool, wet start, with above-average rainfall in October and November of 2021. The increased rainfall promoted strong biomass accumulation, both of cultivated and naturally occurring cover crops. The cooler spring delayed budbreak by two to three weeks, although it was accompanied by even budding. This accelerated vegetative growth, necessitating meticulous and efficient viticultural practices. Flowering was also delayed by two to three weeks.

As temperatures began to rise, the extended rainy period brought high disease pressure, and growers acted vigilantly to curb the effects of downy and powdery mildew. The below-average temperatures throughout the growing season further delayed véraison by 10 to 14 days. Harvest began nine days later on the Vilafonté property, with our other sites in Bonnievale and Robertson too experiencing a 10 to 12-day delay. Each block was harvested and fermented separately to maintain the distinctive qualities needed for blending.

Vintage 2022 quietly reflects our dedication and the enduring quality of our selected vineyard sites. It exemplifies the concentration and fruit-forwardness of Seriously Old Dirt.

The Blend

Matured for eighteen months with French Oak. Seriously Old Dirt 2022 consists of Cabernet Sauvignon (ninety-four percent), Malbec (three percent), Merlot (two percent) and Cabernet Franc (one percent).

Arlene Mains

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