

Craven

2024

'FIRS VINEYARD'

Syrah | *Stellenbosch - South Africa*

NATURAL ORGANIC VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Syrah
Vineyard: Firs Vineyard
Vine Age: 25-years-old
Soil Type: Deep, rich, shale soil with red clay deposits
Viticulture: Practicing Organic - sustainable
Fermentation: Native – open-top stainless-steel (100% whole-cluster)
Skin Contact: 12 days
Aging: 12 months in concrete
Alcohol: 13.2%
pH: 3.6
Total Acidity: 5.1 g/L
Total SO2: 45 ppm
Total Production: 250 cases
UPC: 6009803564416

Reviews

Vinous | 92 points
Wine Mag | 96 points

About

Syrah is a grape that Mick and Jeanine have a soft spot for. They believe there are some really special and unique sites and plantings of Syrah. The Firs Vineyard is owned and farmed by Deon Joubert, located in the warmest enclave of Stellenbosch that Mick pulls fruit from, Devon Valley. The soils are very rich, deep, red soil with high clay content that gives a richness to the wine but keep in mind that Mick picks quite early and there is plenty of that lovely peppery, meaty, high tones that cool-climate Syrah fans adore. The move to concrete for maturation was a game changer for really showcasing the freshness of this wine.

The bunches were hand-harvested and fermented entirely whole-cluster in open-top stainless-steel fermenters. The bunches were lightly foot-stomped to extract a bit of juice and then over the course of a week, gentle pumpovers were performed once or twice daily, as they want to minimize extraction and maintain as many whole bunches as possible. After a little less than two weeks, the wine was gently pressed into concrete squares for 12 months. The wine was then bottled with just a light sheet filtration and small dosage of sulfur. No fining.

Tasting Note

An alluring nose of violets, blackberry, boysenberry, garrigue and cracked pepper that reads Northern Rhône in spirit but sits comfortably in Stellenbosch. The palate is medium-bodied and sappy, with bright acidity and whole-bunch stems adding lift and grip leading to fine tannins and a focused finish.