



## Lourens Family Wines

2023

# 'LUA ILSE'

*Grenache Noir | Piekenierskloof - South Africa*



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

### Stats

**Grapes:** 100% Grenache Noir

**Vineyard:** Single site in  
Piekenierskloof

**Vine Age:** 19-years-old

**Soil Type:** Sandstone & pebbly clay

**Viticulture:** Practicing organic – dry-  
farmed

**Fermentation:** Native – stainless steel  
(25% whole-cluster)

**Skin Contact:** 14 days

**Aging:** 10 months in neutral 500L  
French barrels

**Alcohol:** 14%

**pH:** 3.56

**Total Acidity:** 5.3 g/L

**Total SO<sub>2</sub>:** 45 ppm

**Total Production:** 317 cases

**UPC:** 0781718583190

### Reviews

**The WineMag** | 94 points

**Tim Atkin MW** | 95 points

**Vinous** | 93 points

### About

In 2019, Franco was notified by a friend, Xander Grier, that this small, bushvine vineyard had some fruit available. This Piekenierskloof block, located at 1950 ft. above sea level, is on the drive back down to the valley from the site where Franco gets a bit of Chenin for his single-vineyard bottling. This fifth release, named after his daughter Lua Ilse, continues to be a showstopper. It is one of the most distinguished and singular Grenaches produced in South Africa and in many ways becomes a beacon for others to seek out in terms of its elegance and moreish qualities.

The grapes were hand-harvested and lugged back to the cellar in small picking bins. About 75% of the fruit was de-stemmed but not crushed with the remaining portion left fully intact. Fermentation occurred without any additions in open top one-ton fermenters with the whole clusters placed atop the de-stemmed fruit. Franco hang plunged the wine a few times daily for the first four days to get the ferment active. After nearly two weeks on skins the wine was gently pressed to two old 500L French tonneau for aging. After ten months the wine was racked to tank to settle overnight and bottled with a coarse filtration and small sulfur addition. No fining.

### Tasting Note

The fragrance is one of the best parts about this wine. It smells like a field of just ripe raspberries under a late-afternoon summer sun. It is both powerful and delicate, enveloped in refined finesse and velvety tannins.