



Lourens Family Wines

2020

'LUA ILSE'

Grenache Noir | Piekenierskloof - South Africa



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Grenache Noir

Vineyard: Single site in Piekenierskloof

Vine Age: 16-years-old

Soil Type: Sandstone & pebbly clay

Viticulture: Practicing Organic – dry-farmed

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

Skin Contact: 11 days

Aging: 10 months in neutral 300L French barrels

Alcohol: 14%

pH: 3.51

Total Acidity: 5 g/L

Total SO₂: 61 ppm

Total Production: 66 cases

UPC: 0781718583190

Reviews

Platter's Guide | 94 points

Tim Atkin, MW | 95 points

The WineMag | 93 points

About

Last year Franco was notified about this small, bushvine vineyard having some fruit available from a friend Xander Grier. This block 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 second release, named after his daughter Lua Ilse, is a tremendous follow-up to that spectacular inaugural vintage. The block is small and thus only one two barrels were produced in total. This 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. 75% of the fruit was destemmed 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 destemmed 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 300L French tonneau for aging. After ten months the wine was racked to tank to settle overnight and bottled without fining or filtration and just a small sulfur addition.

Tasting Note

Raspberry in color. The perfume on this wine is truly intoxicating with succulent strawberry and raspberry notes converging with more piquant cranberry fruits. Floral tones converge with the stemmy parts of the flowers as well. The palate is ample but by no means heavy with mouthwatering acidity and sandpaper-like tannins. This is an intense wine that is wrapped in pure finesse.