

Lourens Family Wines

2024

'LUA'

Grenache Noir | Piekenierskloof - South Africa

NATURAL ORGANIC VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Grenache Noir
Vineyard: Single site in Piekenierskloof farmed by the Sandell Family
Vine Age: 20-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 tonneau
Alcohol: 14.2%
pH: 3.49
Total Acidity: 5.5 g/L
Total SO2: 53 ppm
Total Production: 325 cases
UPC: 0781718583190

Reviews

James Suckling | 95 points
Tim Atkin MW | 95 points
The WineMag | 95 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 Skuinskap bottling. Named after his daughter Lua Ilse, this wine follows her birthdays and now in its 6th vintage. 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 two weeks on skins the wine was gently pressed to two old 500L French tonneau for aging. The wine rested for ten months and the barrels were racked to tank to settle naturally without fining and with a coarse filtration. It was bottled with a small sulfur addition.

Tasting Note

'She's a Rainbow' is the song that comes to mind here. Vivid colors, radiant elegance, effortless harmony. Grenache that arrives to the party dressed as fine Burgundy – a negroni-like bittersweet tone runs alongside wild strawberries. Stunning.