



Blackwater

2021

'SOPHIE'

Cabernet Franc - Cinsaut | Western Cape - South Africa



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 61% Cinsaut - 39% Cabernet Franc

Vineyard: Darling (Cinsaut) - Helderberg, Stellenbosch (Cabernet Franc) -

Vine Age: 45-years-old (Cinsaut) - 15-years-old (Cabernet Franc)

Soil Type: Various - mostly granite, shale and sandstone-based soils

Viticulture: Practicing organic

Fermentation: Native - one-ton open-top tubs (80% whole-cluster Cinsaut - 100% de-stemmed Cabernet Franc)

Skin Contact: 3-4 weeks

Aging: 15 months in 30% new 300L and 500L French oak

Alcohol: 14%

pH: 3.66

Total Acidity: 5.7 g/L

Total SO2: 110 ppm

Total Production: 150 cases

UPC: 6009879826296

Reviews

Platter's Guide | 95 points

Tim Atkin, MW | 91 points

About

'Sophie' is a new addition to the stable. She is named after Francois' daughter born in 2020, joining her older brother 'Daniel' in the family lineup. 'Sophie' is a reinvention on a Cape classic which traditionally involved Cabernet Sauvignon and Cinsaut; Francois' preference for Cabernet Franc as a more vivid and brighter wine led to this blend. The Cabernet Franc hails from southern Stellenbosch, receiving those very helpful False Bay breezes. The Cinsaut comes from Darling, which is a district almost entirely surrounded by the Swartland, a bit west of Malmesbury. It's a much warmer and drier climate here, bringing deep, ripe red fruit flavors to the blend. The 2021 edition sees a greater portion of Cinsaut, contrary to the previous vintage, though the region of both grapes remain the same.

The grapes were both hand harvested. The Cabernet Franc was entirely destemmed, while 80% of the Cinsaut batches were fermented whole-cluster. Both were fermented in one-ton open-top tubs. After 3-4 weeks on the skins, the batches were pressed to two 30% new 300L and 500L French oak barrels for 15 months of maturation. It was bottled with just a hit of sulfur. No fining or filtering.

Tasting Notes

Raspberry, black currant, and gravel on the nose, which opens slowly to reveal a thread of florals. The palate is brooding, with violet, sage, and boysenberry notes. Black tea-like tannins give a grippy texture.