



Boschkloof

2018

'EPILOGUE'

Syrah | Stellenbosch - South Africa



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 100% Syrah – clone SH99

Vineyard: Boschklouf Estate

Vine Age: 22-years-old

Soil Type: Decomposed granite over ironstone

Viticulture: Practicing Organic

Fermentation: Native – open-top stainless-steel tank (30% whole-cluster)

Skin Contact: 14 days

Aging: 14 months – 60% neutral 400L French puncheons - 20% cement tank - 20% new French 400L puncheons

pH: 3.64

Total Acidity: 5.4 g/L

Total SO₂: 66 ppm

Total Production: 208 cases

UPC: 6008409000144

Reviews

Decanter | 95 points

Tim Atkin, MW | 98 points

Vinous | 94 points

About

The 'Epilogue' block was planted in 1996 by Jacques Borman following his tremendous success at La Motte in the 1980s and early 1990s. The early results were impressive, but Reenen has really taken this wine to another level. The Borman's flagship wine was going to be 'Conclusion', the Bordeaux-style blend but it was Reenen felt Syrah was the grape that the family best grew and thought this was the next chapter, or epilogue. It was a vineyard that always asked for a little less in every area: less ripeness, less oak, less extraction, etc. The results are nearly unparalleled. Tim Atkin, MW called the 2017 his 'wine of the year' and Reenen has gone on to state that the 2018 is the best wine he has made yet. The 2018 is leaner and a touch less ripe than the monumental 2017, yet it is this fact that really enhances the mesmerizing vinous clarity and perfume.

The grapes were hand-harvested across three picking dates with 30% being left intact for fermentation. The majority of the lot was whole-bunch pressed to open top tanks though one-third was fermented entirely whole-cluster in concrete. Fermentation occurred naturally and without any additions. Post-fermentation a portion was matured in concrete tanks and a portion was matured for 13 months in 30% new 400 litre French oak barrels with the majority in old 400L French puncheons. The wine aged on the fine lees for 14 months with one small sulfur addition in the winter and was bottled without fining or filtration and another small addition of sulfur.

Tasting Note

The perfect combination of power with grace. The nose is deep and complex with top notes of incense and dried herbs before dark berries, olive tapenade, vanilla, earth and black pepper while the palate is full but balanced – there's plenty of fruit power in evidence but the wine is not short of freshness; the tannins meanwhile are fine and mouth-coating, the finish impressively long and savory. At once, gentle and forceful.