VINE ST.
IMPORTS
EST. '99

DEEP ROOTED WINES

Walker Bay - South Africa

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Background

Deep Rooted Wines was founded by Mark Stephens, a young, regenerative viticulturist and winemaker based in Walker Bay, South Africa. With a diverse background in wine, Mark's journey into viticulture began at a regenerative farm in Sonoma during a gap year after high school. Fast forward many years in the industry, and Mark faced health issues due a high sensitivity to sulfur, and this soon became an annoying occupational hazard. Thankfully, a stint in the Loire Valley showed Mark the missing link between no sulfur and no headache, and this sparked the birth of Deep Rooted Wines. Embracing his home in Walker Bay and other pockets of the Cape South Coast, Mark focuses on cooler, maritime regions, producing bright, zippy, and sulfur-free wines called 'Touch Me' (Verdelho) and 'Centre of the Universe' (Sauvignon Blanc). His creations embody the essence of natural wine—additive-free, terroir-focused, and rooted in small-scale viticulture, challenging dogma with a level-headed approach.

Highlights

1 Deep Rooted wines is a project by regenerative viticulturist Mark Stephens based in Walker Bay, South Africa.

2 The wines, a skinsy Verdelho & oak-aged Sauvignon Blanc, are free of added sulfur.

3 Mark is part of the new wave 'South Coasters' group that focuses on sustainability & low-intervention winemaking.
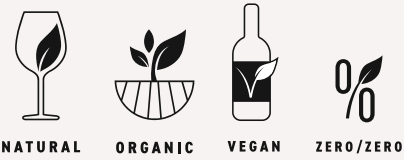
Wines

'Touch Me' SRP $31

Carbonic fermentation and one week of skin contact are the recipe for this Verdelho whose name refers to Mark's desire for you to FEEL this wine. One thing is for sure... you won't forget the label! No added sulfur.
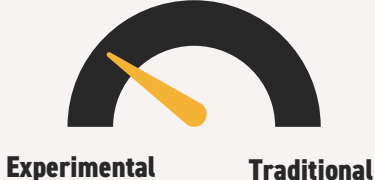
'Centre of the Universe' SRP $23

This is a partial skin-contact, oxidatively-handled Sauvignon Blanc that ferments and ages in old oak. No added sulfur.

Ethos

NATURAL   ORGANIC   VEGAN   ZERO/ZERO

Packaging

Experimental   Traditional

Press

" … this [is a] stylish, flinty, deliberately reductive style of Sauvignon Blanc from the creative Mark Stephens.

93 points
TIM ATKIN, MW
'Centre of the Universe' 2022