

Gabriëlskloof,

`Syrah on Sandstone` Bot River 2017

Walker Bay, Bot River, Cape South Coast, South Africa



GABRIËLSKLOOF



PRODUCER

Gabriëlskloof is a beautiful wine estate located in the Overberg region east of Cape Town. It was purchased in 2001 by Bernhard Heyns, who had been on the lookout for the ideal place to plant vines. After planting, his first vintage was in 2009. We felt compelled to add Gabriëlskloof to our list because Peter-Allan Finlayson, Bernhard's son-in-law, took over as winemaker from the 2015 vintage. Peter-Allan is now Cellar Master and oversees general management of the property. The farm has 178 hectares, with 68 hectares planted to vines. The vineyards are farmed sustainably with the support of full time vineyard consultant Rosa Kruger. Their aim is to move to organic farming in the future.

VINEYARDS

The fruit for this wine is sourced from the Sandstone vineyard, named due to the soils consisting of mostly broken Sandstone rock. The site is mountainous and this environment leads to low vine vigour and yields, resulting in complex and unique wines.

VINTAGE

The growing season leading up to the 2017 harvest was warm and dry with a slightly longer ripening period than the previous year. The yields were 15% lower than usual and the bunches and berries were small but with good concentration of flavours.

VINIFICATION

The fruit was hand-picked into small crates and was cold-settled overnight with 70% destemmed and 30% left as whole bunch. Fermentation occurred using natural yeasts before the wine was aged in 500 litre French oak barrels for 18 months, with 30% new oak used.

TASTING NOTES

This wine has savoury aromas complemented by notes of blackberries, violets and crushed pepper. On the palate, the delicate fruit flavours are balanced by a subtle spiciness and silky tannins.

Grape Varieties	100% Syrah
Winemaker	Peter-Allan Finlayson
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	14%
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan