

Gabriëlskloof,

`Syrah on Sandstone` Bot River 2018

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's unique soil and cool climate result in an elegant and perfumed style of Syrah. The site is mountainous and this environment leads to low vine vigour and reduced yields for additional concentration and complexity in the wine.

VINTAGE

The 2018 vintage was a challenging one, with drought as the predominant factor leading to smaller yields. The yield for the Syrah on Sandstone block was down by 20% from 2017 to 2018. The dry weather throughout the season did have its advantages, though, as vines were healthy, with little or no pests and diseases resulting in intensely concentrated and fragrant berries.

VINIFICATION

The fruit was hand-picked into small crates and was cold-settled overnight with 50% left as whole bunches for additional tension and structure. Fermentation occurred using indigenous yeasts in open top fermenters, followed by an extended post fermentation maceration for gentle extraction of tannins. The wine was aged in 500 litre French oak barrels for 18 months, with 30% new oak used.

TASTING NOTES

This is an elegant, cool climate Syrah with savoury notes of fynbos and tomato leaf complemented by lifted aromas of raspberry, violet and crushed pepper. There is a wonderful density on the palate, coupled with fine grained tannins and vivid acidity.

Grape Varieties	100% Syrah
Winemaker	Peter-Allan Finlayson
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	13%
Residual Sugar	2g/L
Acidity	5.8g/L
Wine pH	3.43
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Sustainable, Vegan