

Gabriëlskloof,
Walker Bay Cabernet Franc 2019
Walker Bay, Bot River, Cape South Coast, South Africa



GABRIËLSKLOOF



Grape Varieties	100% Cabernet Franc
Winemaker	Nina Muller
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	14.5%
Residual Sugar	3.2g/L
Acidity	5.8g/L
Wine pH	3.54
Bottle Sizes	75cl

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 single vineyard wine is sourced from a mountainside site on the Gabriëlskloof estate. Prevailing southerly winds from the nearby Atlantic Ocean create a cool mesoclimate, which promotes perfumed aromatics and fresh acidity. The soil is a combination of Overberg Shale and Table Mountain Sandstone, which results in a spicy complexity in the wine. The vineyard is 17 years old, and this shows in the depth and character of this wine.

VINTAGE

The 2019 vintage is one of phenomenal quality across the board. Conditions were cool leading up to a generally dry harvest with little rainfall, resulting in low yields. The smaller bunches and berries resulted in concentrated, complex and ageworthy wines.

VINIFICATION

The fruit was hand-picked into small crates and taken directly to the winery, where it remained overnight. The majority of the grapes was destemmed and then crushed. 10% were left as whole bunches for additional structure and freshness. The wine was aged in 500-litre barrels for 18 months, with 30% new French oak used.

TASTING NOTES

Bright ruby in colour, this wine has aromas of redcurrant, bramble and black cherry with hints of clove. The palate is fuller-bodied than previous vintages, with ripe tannins and an earthy complexity.