

Mullineux Single Terroir,
`Schist` Swartland Syrah 2020
Swartland, South Africa



Grape Varieties	100% Syrah
Winemaker	Andrea Mullineux
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	13%
Residual Sugar	1.8g/L
Acidity	5.1g/L
Wine pH	3.81
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Sustainable, Vegetarian, Vegan

PRODUCER

Founded by Chris and Andrea Mullineux in 2007, this winery is now one of the most lauded in South Africa. Named 'Winery of the Year' four times by the Platter Guide in 2014, 2016, 2019 and 2020, Mullineux were also Tim Atkin MW's 'South African Winemakers of the Year' in 2016. They chose the town of Riebeeck-Kasteel, just west of Malmesbury in the Swartland, for its old vineyards on granite and schist soils, reasoning that, with such quality fruit, they would be able to make outstanding wines. It is an understatement to say they have been proved right. At the top of their quality ladder are the Single Terroir wines, made from small parcels of old vines, usually dry farmed on the ancient granite, quartz, schist or iron based soils of the Swartland.

VINEYARDS

Fruit for this Syrah comes from a parcel of sustainably-farmed vines planted on the stony shale and schist-based soils of Mullineux's farm, Roundstone, on the Kasteelberg. The soils are rocky and well-drained, producing vines with smaller and more open canopies, naturally small bunches and thick-skinned berries. This parcel of Syrah gives the best expression of the Kasteelberg soil's density with structured tannins and a darker fruit profile. The vines are 23 years old on average.

VINTAGE

After the drought experienced from 2016 to 2019, the 2020 harvest produced yields that were closer to normal. The Swartland had a wet and cold winter and very little rain during the growing season, which resulted in healthy bunches with small, intensely flavoured berries. The season started relatively late, and they were able to harvest the Syrah, a few weeks later than the past few years, with ripe and complex flavours and moderate potential alcohol levels. Although they were still experiencing very dry conditions in the Cape, the hard work over the previous five year period was clearly evident during this season, with very high-quality fruit coming into the cellar across all varieties and vineyards.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were picked by hand during the cool early morning, after which the whole bunches were put into open top 500L French oak barrels and foot-crushed. Indigenous fermentation began and hand plunging was carried out for very gentle extraction. A further four weeks of skin contact was given, before being drained and pressed back to the same barrels for malolactic fermentation and maturation. The wine was matured for 12 months in French oak 500L barrels (50% new and 50% fourth fill) followed by 10 months in 2,000-litre foudre. It was aged a further nine months in bottle prior to release.

TASTING NOTES

Perfumed and vibrant, the 2020 has layered aromas of black plum, with hints of rose petal, nutmeg and tobacco leaf. On the palate, firm tannins are tempered by velvety mouthfeel. The finish is long and brooding.