

Gabriëlskloof,

`The Blend` Walker Bay 2020

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



GABRIËLSKLOOF



Grape Varieties	56% Cabernet Sauvignon
	20% Cabernet Franc
	8% Malbec
	8% Merlot
	8% Petit Verdot

Winemaker	Nina Muller
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	14.5%
Residual Sugar	2.4g/L
Acidity	5.5g/L
Wine pH	3.67
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 Gabriëlskloof winery is in the Bot River ward, where prevailing southerly winds from the nearby Atlantic Ocean create a mesoclimate perfectly suited to low-yielding vineyards. There are a variety of different soils on the farm. The Cabernet Franc vines are planted on a combination of Bokkeveld Shale and Table Mountain Sandstone, resulting in perfumed and spicy aromatics.

VINTAGE

2020 was still affected by the preceding drought years, which resulted in reduced yields. However, some winter rainfall began to replenish water reserves in the soil. The grapes underwent a perfectly paced, slow and steady ripening. Dry summer conditions resulted in small berries with good levels of concentration. Harvest was earlier than previous years, with cool conditions around harvest retaining elegant fruit and vibrant acidity.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were hand picked for optimal fruit quality and bunches were destemmed. Fermentation took place in old French oak barriques using only indigenous yeast. The wine was then aged 18 months in old French barriques.

TASTING NOTES

This Bordeaux blend has aromas of blackcurrant, dark chocolate and nutmeg. The palate is structured with firm tannins and vivid acidity, leading to a long finish.