

Gabriëlskloof,

`The Blend` Walker Bay 2021

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 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

2021 was a long, cool vintage and lasted around 10 days longer than the previous vintage. As a result of the long growing season, the grapes experienced a perfectly paced, slow ripening process and developed greater aromatic complexity. The grapes took some strain as the soils dried up early in January. This led to particularly small bunches and lower yields, with excellent fruit intensity.

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 wine displays intense black fruit aromatics complemented by cured meat, leather notes, lifted floral elements and savoury wet earth aromatics. The palate presents pure fruit flavours of ripe mulberry, cassis, and liquorice, enhanced by gentle clove and star anise spice. Finely integrated tannins and robust alcohol create a full-bodied wine that is approachable in its youth while possessing excellent ageing potential.

Grape Varieties **70% Cabernet Sauvignon**
 13% Cabernet Franc
 11% Merlot
 6% Malbec

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| Winemaker | Peter-Allan Finlayson |
| Closure | Natural Cork |
| ABV | 14.5% |
| Residual Sugar | 4.1g/L |
| Acidity | 5.4g/L |
| Wine pH | 3.8 |
| Bottle Sizes | 75cl |
| Notes | Vegetarian, Vegan |