

Momento,

Grenache Noir 2021

Swartland, Western Cape, South Africa

*Momento*sm



Grape Varieties	100% Grenache
Winemaker	Marelise Niemann
Closure	Diam
ABV	13%
Residual Sugar	1.5g/L
Acidity	6g/L
Wine pH	3.18
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan

PRODUCER

Born out of a passion for Mediterranean varieties and old-vine fruit, Momento is a solo project from dynamic winemaker Marelise Niemann. Marelise earned her stripes as the winemaker at Beaumont Family Wines from 2007 to 2014, sharing cellar space with Crystallum's Peter-Allan Finlayson and Thorne & Daughters' John Thorne-Seccombe. She has also worked in California, Rhône, Burgundy and Portugal. Her fascination with Grenache was sparked while in Priorat in 2010 where, together with winemaker Eben Sadie, she was impressed by the fresh, vibrant fruit produced by the old vines. On her return to South Africa, she began seeking out parcels of old vine Grenache to make her own elegant and soulful wines.

VINEYARDS

The fruit for this Grenache Noir is sourced from dry-farmed bush vines planted in the Paardeberg on decomposed granite soils, which result in an elegant and pure style. Grenache Noir's drought resistance makes it well-suited to the warm and arid conditions of the Paardeberg and capable of retaining naturally high levels of acidity to temper the vines' low-yielding intensity.

VINTAGE

The 2021 vintage will be remembered as a favourable year in the Western Cape. The winter and spring was wetter than recent years, however this enabled the soils to build up much needed water reserves for the warmer summer months. Heatwaves, although common, were avoided in the peak summer months which, combined with the cool nights allowed the grapes to enjoy an optimal ripening season ahead of harvest.

VINIFICATION

Marelise employs a minimalist approach in the cellar to retain an elegant and delicate expression of Grenache. The grapes were picked by hand in the early morning. Thirty percent was kept as whole bunches and underwent four days of cold soaking on skins to develop the colour and flavours. After fermentation using indigenous yeasts, an additional 10-day post-fermentation maceration with manual punch downs was carried out to extract fine, supple tannins. After a total of four weeks on skins, the grapes were gently pressed in an old basket press into old foudres for malolactic fermentation and maturation. The wine was bottled without fining after a total of 16 months in barrel.

TASTING NOTES

Akin to Pinot Noir, the 2021 vintage has delicate aromas of red cherry, crushed strawberry and raspberry, as well as savoury rosemary and clove on the nose. The palate reveals supple, fine tannins, with a gentle grip. The finish is refined and moreish, with lively acidity.