

Vergelegen Merlot 2018

Vergelegen, one of South Africa's most iconic estates, has established itself as a benchmark for quality and elegance. Located in the renowned Stellenbosch wine region, Vergelegen is celebrated for crafting wines of exceptional depth, complexity, and sophistication. The Vergelegen Merlot Reserve 2018 continues this tradition with a rich and velvety expression of the Merlot grape.



General Information

- **Producer:** Vergelegen
- **Appellation:** Stellenbosch, South Africa
- **Varietal Composition:** 100% Merlot
- **Vintage:** 2018
- **Alcohol Content:** 14.5%
- **Volume:** 750ml



Vineyard and Terroir

- **Location:** Grapes are sourced from north- and north-westerly vineyards on the estate, where the slope flattens, resulting in a higher clay content in the soil, providing buffering capacity against stressful conditions.
- **Soil Type:** Clay-rich soils.



Winemaking

- **Harvest:** Grapes were hand-picked and sorted.
- **Vinification:** Cold-soaked for 2 days in stainless steel tanks, followed by fermentation with 3 yeast strains. A combination of pump-overs was used for extraction. Malolactic fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks, and the wine was aged in a combination of 225L and 300L barrels for 12 months before blending and bottling.



Tasting Notes

- **Appearance:** Very deep, youthful colour, intense almost purple hue.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of ripe plum, intertwined with indulgent dark chocolate and subtle nutmeg notes.
- **Palate:** Velvety soft finish with rich flavor.



Food Pairing

- **Recommended Pairings:** Ideal with tomato-based dishes such as pizza, stews, or soup.



Sustainable Practices and Certifications

- Vergelegen is a pioneer in sustainability and biodiversity efforts:
- Awarded the Sustainable Wine Tourism Practices prize in the 2024 Best of Wine Tourism Awards, demonstrating its commitment to eco-friendly winemaking.
- The estate was the first South African Biodiversity and Wine Initiative Champion in 2005, with sustainability remaining central to all activities. Vergelegen's significant alien vegetation clearing project culminated in a 1900-hectare reserve, granted the same protection status as the Kruger National Park.
- They actively support Fairtrade, reduce carbon emissions, practice land conservation by keeping over 2,000 hectares free from agricultural activity, and are a participant in the Cape Leopard Trust.



Awards and Recognition

- Past vintages of Vergelegen Merlot have received high acclaim, with scores reaching up to 93 points by Platter and 92 points by Tim Atkin.

VERGELEGEN



De Vries Premium Wines

Producer's Notes

The Vergelegen Merlot Reserve 2018 embodies the estate's dedication to crafting elegant and refined wines, with a rich flavor profile and the potential for aging that showcases the true character of Stellenbosch Merlot.