



2013 Claypot Merlot

Technical details:

Varietal:	100 % Merlot
Alcohol:	14%
Total acidity:	5.6 g/l
pH:	3.68
Residual sugar:	3 g/l

Tasting notes:

A new release of one of South – Africa’s most famous Merlots. We proudly present Claypot 2013. This wine is our pride and joy with almost cult status in South – Africa. Served in some of the most famous restaurants in the world this wine is a true indication of what Laibach terroir is all about. Made from organically grown grapes, picked very carefully only in certain parts of our oldest blocks, this wine is a true reflection of attention to detail and absolute Merlot passion. Volumes may vary but in general we do very much the same with this unique block every year. This block of vines stands in our deepest clay soils. Clay is king when it comes to Merlot and this wine is a perfect example of this. Clay soils keep moisture, and in a warm wine growing country like South – Africa it is also essential to keep the roots deep and cool. This way the plant can truly ripen its fruit and you get some good body and velvety tannins which is so important for the grape. Remember, we are one of the last farms to have unirrigated vineyards. Harvest is done by hand and we try to cool down the grapes as much as possible. After destemming there is a lot of sorting going on. All unwanted green, bitter stems are removed by hand to allow for a good extraction. No acid is added, we like the wines to have a high ph and low acidity. Fermentation is all natural and starts a few days after a deliberate cooling down of the mash. Fermentation temperatures are allowed to peak at 28 degrees. Malolactic is done in stainless and ageing in expensive 225 liter French oak barrels. No fining is done before bottling and the wine is bottled sterile. Deep dark colour. Oodles of fruit on the nose with some toast, spice and dark chocolate evident. On the palate good structure and amazing velvety tannins that is well supported by expensive oak. A wine that will improve during the next few years and a true South – African legend.