



At the centre of the Cape Winelands lies the Simonsberg mountain, a fynbos-rich massif, home to exceptional vineyards since the 17th century. It's on the southern slopes, with unrivaled views over False Bay to Table Mountain, that you will find TOKARA's home vineyards and olive groves.

TOKARA'S ULTRA-PREMIUM BORDEAUX BLEND, TELOS.

TOKARA TELOS 2018



Hailing from the powerful 2018 vintage, this wine has its origin from a 16 year old single vineyard block and is limited to a 1,000 bottles Cabernet Sauvignon, aged for 22 months in 65% new French oak with medium toast and 'house toast'. Essential to the singular expression that this wine exhibits undoubtedly, is the origin of the Cabernet Sauvignon from one particular block on Tokara. This block lies on the crest of a spur between two valleys, benefitting from millions of years of exposure to the elements. The soil is a perfect mix of clay, derived from ancient decomposed granite and gravel that has its origins from Table Mountain Sandstone that crumbled and weathered in a slow march down the face of the Simonsberg Mountain.

In this instance, clay with its great affinity to binding water holds the vines on a knife-edge of water stress offering up only that which they demand as the transpiration rates increase during the warmer ripening season. The effect of this is very slow ripening of tannins and a stronger tannin structure overall. The gravel that punctuates the soil profile down to at least 2.5m serves as a great moderator – decreasing the clay percentage and allowing appropriate softening of the tannins to coincide with sugar ripeness.

Harvest takes place in two passes each respecting the natural variability that arises from subtle differences in the soil across the block, that is monitored and confirmed by NDVI (Near Differential Vegetative Indexing) each season. The clusters are hand-picked and cooled overnight in a cold store to 5°C before destemming and hand sorting the following morning.

TELOS Cabernet Sauvignon is fermented in two small raw concrete tanks acquired for this purpose. Pre-and post-fermentation maceration ensures gentle but complete extraction from the skins and allows for softer handling of the cap during the peak of ferment.

Only the free run component is taken to a selection of French oak barrels, the cooperage selection being determined through fastidious trials that began in 2005 and employed various "prototype" wines.

The aromas open with impressive cassis, graphite is tightly interwoven with attractive blackberry, dark cherry coulis and cigar box. The palate is sleek, lithe and particularly fine boned with a very polished, sultry elegance and textural focus. There is already impressive complexity but also a modicum of classical restraint.

This is a rare South African expression that boasts a vibrant natural acidity and ripe, fine grained powdery tannins that cushion a beautifully natural sense of balance, harmony and finesse, all elements coming together seamlessly and effortlessly at such an early stage in the wines evolution. A really polished, faultless, old world leaning expression that is undoubtedly a new and impressive tour de force on the South African fine wine scene. Drink this wine from 2024+ onwards and cellar comfortably for 20+ years.

TECHNICAL: Alc. Vol%: 14.5%, R/S: 2.7g/L, T/A: 5.3g/L, pH: 3.48

TIM ATKIN MW 95 POINTS & A WINE OF THE YEAR!

Some might quibble about the deliberately high price, but there's no denying the complexity or sheer class of this cuvée of Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot. Sourced from a single 0.5-hectare block, it has wonderful depth and granitic focus. The new wood is very well integrated, embellishing the flavours of blackcurrant, black cherry, fennel and wet stones. Remarkable. 2024-35

ALSO: VINOUS-93 PTS



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