

## DE TRAFFORD SHIRAZ 1999

CAPE WINEMAKERS GUILD AUCTION WINE

### VINEYARD BLOCKS

Second harvest from 1 block 4 yr old vines on 5 wire vertical trellis with moveable foliage wires. Clones SH21A; SH1A & SH99 all on 101 - 14 rootstock. "**Mont Fleur**" vineyard - high altitude Helderberg mountain NW facing slope. Steeply sloping site with rocky, granitic based Hutton soil. Lightly irrigated after veraison and shortly before harvest to avoid excessive stress during the critical ripening stage. Yield **3 tons / hect.**

### VINTAGE CONDITIONS

A dry, hot summer. The ripening period was hot and dry, but thankfully not too many excessively hot days. The ripening was surprisingly slow and even with ripe, healthy grapes producing big wines with high alcohols.

Harvest date : 1 / 3 / 99 @ 25° balling.

### PRODUCTION

**Handpicking** into 20 kg lugboxes. Destemming and gentle crushing directly into small 2 ton open top fermentation tanks. Spontaneous **natural yeast** fermentation @ max. 32 deg. with the cap of skins punched down manually 2 - 4 times a day for 13 days. Wine drained directly to barrels together with single pressing from traditional basket press.

All our red wine undergo malolactic fermentation in the barrel. This helps to integrate the new oak component and fix colour and flavour compounds. 30% new French oak and 15 % new American oak was used from the high quality 'Francois Freres' and 'Demptos' cooperages.

Time in barrel 16 months with only a single racking.

This wine was bottled unfiltered and unfiltered by hand.

Bottling date : 20 / 7 / 2000.

Production : 70 cases.

### TASTING NOTES

Dark red colour. Intense blackberry aromas with intriguing pepper and leather spiciness. A big, rich palate with a thick, velvety texture and long, soft finish. Probably best between 2002 & 2008. Ideal with strong flavoured grilled red meat.

### ANALYSIS

Alc. 15.26 SG. 2.4 TA 5.9 pH 3.53 VA 0.67 SO<sub>2</sub> 42 & 76