

2016 Spice Route Grenache, W.O. Swartland

Five centuries ago the ancient mariners braved uncharted seas to round the Cape of Good Hope in search of exotic spices. Their nerve and dash inspire the Spice Route philosophy. We have found our signature wine style in the rolling hills along the Cape's West Coast, where unirrigated vines produce grapes with small thick skinned berries – ripe fruit that is dense, rich and full flavoured. A passionate dedication to exceptional quality and traditional hand crafting captures the essence of this fruit in the wines of the Spice Route.

IN THE VINEYARD:

Planted in 2006, these younger, unirrigated bushvines from Amoskuil farm have started to show promising results, with the potential to produce complex wines. Even the antelope that roam wild on the farm have particular preference for this vineyard, often nibbling on the low-hanging bushvine fruit.

HARVEST DATE:

16 February 2016

WINEMAKING:

The grapes were hand-picked and fermented in open concrete fermenters with manual punch-down of the skins. The wine was gently pressed off the skins and transferred to old French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation, guaranteeing the integrity of its delicate fruit. The wine was matured for 15 months further in these barrels.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS:

"This is the fifth vintage of Spice Route Grenache from Amoskuil farm. Grenache continues to be an exciting grape for our Swartland vineyards. With very dry and warm growing conditions for the 2016 vintage, we had to carefully monitor the vineyards to get the right balance between ripeness and picking time. This amazing grape offers striking purity of fruit and has great potential in the Swartland. Cheers!" - *Charl du Plessis* -

TASTING NOTE:

Vibrant light red colour. Red berry fruit and subtle pepper harmonize with cardamom and iron-like spice. This elegantly built wine benefits from a lightness which does not hinder its complexity. Fine tannins and good acidity will help this wine evolve well over the next few years in bottle.



Wine of Origin	Swartland
Alcohol	14.0%
Residual sugar	2.8g/l
Total acid	5.4g/l
pH	3.47

SpiceRoute

THE SPICE ROUTE WINERY SOUTH AFRICA