

# 2017 Spice Route Chakalaka, W.O. Swartland

Chakalaka, a Zulu word that implies togetherness, refers to a truly South African blend of spices, used to add flavour to local dishes. A reflection of the “Rainbow Nation”, this wine is inspired by the cultural diversity of which we are justly proud. Traditional practices in the vineyards and a delicate hand in the cellar craft the Spice Route Chakalaka blend: a sum of many parts selected for their ability to express the soils of the Swartland wine region harmoniously.

## IN THE VINEYARD:

The vineyards are planted on Richter 99 rootstock. These vines are mainly bushvine planted in deep, iron-rich clay soils with decomposed granite (koffieklip and Oakleaf), and farmed without irrigation. The average yield for these vineyards was between 3.5 and 6 tons per hectare. The varieties were selected for their suitability to the Swartland’s growing conditions, and blended to express the region’s unique *terroir*.

## HARVEST DATE:

From mid-February to end of March 2017

## WINEMAKING:

The grapes were hand-harvested, destalked and lightly crushed, where after it was fermented in open concrete fermenters (‘kuipe’). Manual punch downs were done during fermentation. The wines were then racked off and sent to barrel for malolactic fermentation and further ageing. Each wine component for the blend was matured in seasoned French and American oak for 12 months before blending occurred. The last step allowed for further maturation of the final wine in the same old oak barrels.

## TASTING NOTE:

A smooth silky wine with hints of black current, cherry and plums. This signature blend of Spice Route truly reflects the terrior of the Swartland.

## FOOD RECOMMENDATION:

A bold wine like this can hold up to the intense South African flavors of slow-roasted meat (lovely with barbequed pork). Even Asian cuisine flavors, such as plum sauce, will add to the fruitiness in the wine.



Wine of Origin	Swartland
Alcohol	13.6%
Residual sugar	3.7 g/l
Total acid	6.0 g/l
pH	3.52

27% Grenache | 26% Syrah | 22% Mataro | 11% Carignan | 8% Petite Sirah | 6% Tannat

*SpiceRoute*

THE SPICE ROUTE WINERY SOUTH AFRICA