

THE BERNARD SERIES



SMALL BARREL SMV 2018

The Bernard Series was named after Bernard Podlashuk, visionary co-founder of the Bellingham brand and maverick winemaker. Never quite satisfied to be just ordinary, he is recognised for his daring vision, sheer audacity and unabated drive that helped place South African wine on the map. The legend of his tenacity and innovative flair lives on through the Bernard series, Bellingham's premium range of hand-crafted wines.

Varieties: Shiraz 61%; Mourvèdre 37%; Viognier 2%

Origin: Voor Paardeberg (Paarl)

In the vineyard: The grapes were hand-picked from selected vineyards grown on the slopes of the Voor Paardeberg. The Shiraz vineyard is trellised on individual stakes, whilst the Mourvèdre vineyard is planted without trellising as bush vines. Careful quality control took place in the vineyards, including bunch selection at harvest, followed by berry selection on arrival at the cellar. These vineyards and their grapes are specially selected for their soft, juicy tannins and purity of fruit.

In the Cellar: The Mourvèdre was harvested separately, while the Shiraz and Viognier components were harvested together, and after de-stemming was "co-fermented" in stainless steel tank. During fermentation there were four Pump-overs daily, but carried out very gently to facilitate only fine tannin extraction. After a light pressing, the young wine underwent malo-lactic fermentation in French oak of which 30% was new and then the wine was matured for a period of 14 months in the same barrels before bottling too place.

Tasting Notes: Deep garnet red with some purple hues. Vibrant blackberry and dark cherry aromas layered with clove spice and pepper on the nose carry through to an intricate intensely fruited palate that is both powerful and graceful with wonderful complexity and depth and a long, full finish. A great food wine that will match a variety of dishes including roast leg of lamb, beef stew or tomato-based pasta dishes.

Alc 13.9% | RS 2.79g/l | pH 3.56 | TA 5.36 g/l

A WINE BY **Bellingham.**
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