

EDWARD ROSS 2018

Background:

Named for Ross and his sister's Grandfather and considered to be the original Rascal in the family, Edward Ross (after whom the Rascal was named), had a rich and entertaining life. Choosing to forgo convention in many instances and often not endearing himself to many, nevertheless, he saw service in the South African army and navy in WWII. This wine honours his service and that of many others, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice.

Vintage: 2018

Varietals: Shiraz (52%), Cab Sauvignon (34%), Cinsault (7%), Grenache Noir (7%)

Style: Full-bodied elegantly wooded wine

Wine of origin: Western Cape (Stellenbosch and Paarl)

Vineyards: This wine is a combination of parcels from the Helderberg mountains in Stellenbosch. The soils are a combination of Hutton and Clovelly on a clay sub-base and Northern slope. The Syrah grapes were hand-harvested mid-March and the Cabernet Sauvignon in the last week of March. Low-yielding vineyard secures small berries with lots of concentration and loose bunches. Efficient canopy management practices such as suckering, and tipping ensured sufficient sunlight penetrated the canopy and phenolic ripeness could be reached.

Winemaking: The Shiraz grapes were harvested in the 2nd week of March at 24,5 Balling, cold soaked for 3 days until natural fermentation kicked and pumped over twice a day. The Cabernet Sauvignon were harvested on the 23rd March at 25 Balling, cold soaked for 3 days and then inoculated in the open fermenter. Initially pumped over 4 times a day and after first half of fermentation was complete only twice a day. The varieties were pressed after total of 14 days on skins with malolactic in 40% new barrels and the balance in stainless steel. After racking all the wine were matured in 300L barrels for 18 months. The Cinsault and Grenache from the 2018 vintage were fermented in closed top tanks and pumped over twice a day to keep the freshness. Maturation in 4-5th fill barrels for 9 months. Blending was done in June 2019 and wine bottled in November.

Tasting notes: A full-bodied structured wine with great aging potential. Layered flavour of spices, plum and red fruits, backed by violets, black current and pencil shavings. On the palate the fruit flavour follows through on the full-bodied structure of the wine that ends on a savoury note.

ABV: 14.39% pH: 3.61 RS: 2.6 g/l

Awards: Tim Atkin South Africa Report 92 points, Platter Wine Guide 4.5* Winemag.co.za 93 points, Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show Silver Medal 91 points, Decanter World Wine Awards 90 points, James Suckling Wine Ratings 90 points

