



MEERLUST

Rubicon 2021

Stellenbosch, South Africa



VARIETALS:

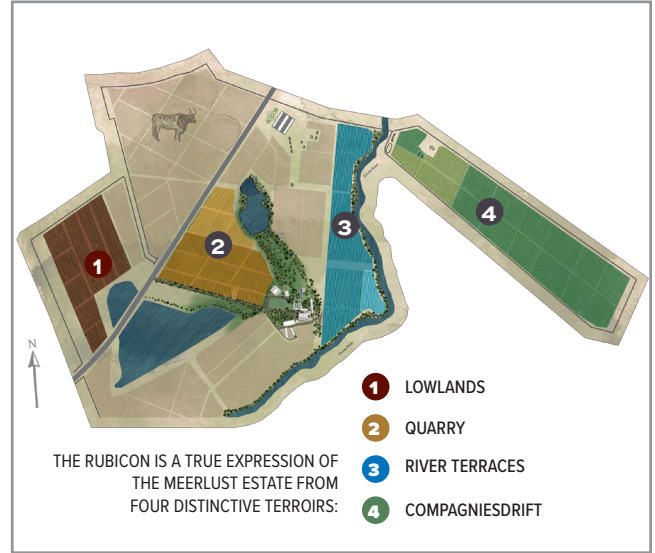
- 48% Cabernet Sauvignon
- 46% Merlot
- 5% Cabernet Franc
- 1% Petit Verdot

OVERVIEW

Meerlust Estate has been part of the Myburgh family tradition for eight generations, dating back to 1693. Long recognized for producing world-class wines, the Meerlust Estate is singularly rich in charm and history. Meerlust produces wines that are true to the intrinsic character of their vineyards located in the Stellenbosch region in South Africa. The diverse soils, the unique coastal climate and over 300 years of dedication are all essential components of Meerlust's complex, rich and truly distinctive wines.

WINEMAKING

The cabernet sauvignon is grown on low-yielding, predominantly biotite, partially decomposed granite gravel topsoil, rich in quartz and feldspar to a depth of approximately 600m with a loamy clay subsoil. The merlot vineyards are planted on more clay-rich, yet well-drained soils to ensure moisture retention and availability to the vines' roots right through the summer. There are considerable deposits of iron-rich Laterite in the merlot vineyards which accentuates the fruit definition and mineral profile of the wine. The cabernet franc vineyard is situated on the very well drained, stony Vilafontes soil with approximately 20% clay which is ideal for this variety. The petit verdot is on Oakleaf 3 soils on a northerly aspect to ensure full phenolic ripeness.



The 2021 Rubicon is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Every parcel of each variety was fermented separately before undergoing malolactic fermentation in 300 L barrels and large Foudre. After 8 months in barrel, the components were blended and given another 10 months in barrel for harmonization before bottling. The 2021 sees the more mature Merlot vineyards coming more to the fore with almost equal part Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot in the final blend.

96
POINTS
WA
WINEANORAK
GLOBAL WINE JOURNAL

Sourced from all four terroir units on the farm. 50% new oak here, with 18 months in barrel, but looking at less toast. First vintage 1980. Concentrated and fresh with lovely blackcurrant and red cherry fruit, with subtle olive and spice showing great intensity and potential for ageing. Grippy and structured with well integrated oak, and lovely fruit balance. Primary and brimming with potential.

93
POINTS
Robert Parker
WINE ENTHUSIAST

This is a wine with a long and beloved following that was first made in 1980. The Meerlust 2021 Stellenbosch Rubicon is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Dark fruit layers are interwoven with grilled herb and earthy tones, supported by firm tannins and a notably lean mouthfeel. The estate's gravelly, granite-derived soils naturally emphasize freshness and tension, giving Rubicon its classical frame, even in riper vintages.

91
POINTS
vinous

The 2021 Rubicon has quite an extrovert bouquet, more so than the 2001; black plum, dark chocolate and light violet scents emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fleshy, ripe tannins, more body and depth here, cohering nicely towards the slightly lactic finish that fans out nicely. Fine. Tasted at the Meerlust tasting at Berry Brothers & Rudd in London.

