



Chameleon Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot 2006



THE WINES OF
JORDAN
STELLENBOSCH



BACKGROUND

The gardens and willow trees at Jordan are home to the Cape Dwarf Chameleon. Chameleon is a wonderfully apt name, expressing the changing flavours of the component varieties of these fruit-driven blends.

LOCATION & CLIMATE

The distinct ravine which embodies Stellenbosch Kloof harnesses all the qualities of a well-orientated compass. Varying elevations and aspects allows us to grow a selection of classic varieties to specific sites that optimise this expression through their location. The cooler south- and east-facing aspects, unique in Stellenbosch, hosts the more sensitive and aromatic white-skinned grape varieties.

Stellenbosch Kloof enjoys a cooler Mediterranean climate with maritime influences from False Bay, 14km to the south, and a refreshing breeze channelled from the West Coast's Benguela current 24km to the north-west. These two breezes culminate at the top end of the ravine and bring in early morning mists, especially from False Bay. Consequently, temperatures in our meso-climate can be measured at least 3° Celsius cooler than inland Stellenbosch during ripening periods. This adds a unique characteristic to Jordan wines.

APPELLATION

Wine of Origin Stellenbosch.

SOIL

Decomposed granite and loam.

ASPECT

North and east-facing vineyards.

AGE OF VINES

14-20 years

BLEND

49 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 14% Shiraz.

ANALYSIS

Alc: 13.5%

Total Acid: 6.4g/l

pH: 3.62

Residual Sugar: 1.8g/l

TASTING NOTES

The Merlot portion adds a ripe cherry character to the minty berry flavours of the Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet Franc adds a spiciness to the blend which is balanced by the rich toastiness of French oak.

HARVESTING

The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested at 23.7° - 24.3°B between 27th February and 7th March 2006. The Merlot was harvested at 23.9°B - 24.1°B between 14th and 21st February 2006. The Shiraz was harvested at 23.7° B on 27th February 2006.

WINEMAKING & MATURATION

Fermented in overhead retort-shaped, stainless steel fermentors. Pump-overs done twice daily during fermentation. The Cabernet Sauvignon received extended maceration on the skins after fermentation. The Merlot underwent malo-lactic fermentation in the barrel. The various portions of the blend spent 14 months in 225 litre French oak barrels (mostly Nevers and Alliers).