

# MURATIE

stellenbosch



## Muratie Merlot 2002

*Farming with character and persistence.*



### CANITZ'S FAMILY STORY

The artist George Paul Canitz was out horseback riding with his daughter Alberta Annemarie when they, quite by chance, discovered Muratie. They both fell instantly in love with the property, which he purchased in due course, and when he died he left it to her, making her one of the first female wine-farm owners in the country. A fiercely independent woman, she kept Muratie exactly as her father had left it, and she rode well into her 80s, eventually only stopping, she insisted, 'because the horse is too old'. Like fine wine, she got better with age, making this Merlot, with its potential to become increasingly characterful over time.

### VINEYARD

The Muratie Merlot was harvested from three different blocks on the estate. The vines were planted in 1990 and 1992. Two of the blocks are North West facing and the third North. The elevation of the vines is at 280 m above sea level. The Table Mountain sandstone soil provides good moisture to these dry-land vineyards. All the vines are planted on Richter 99 rootstocks.

### VINIFICATION

The grapes were handpicked, yielding 4.5 tons per hectare. They were then crushed, destalked and pumped into traditional open fermenters. Pump-overs and punch downs were done at regular intervals. The wine was matured in French oak barrels for 12 months.

### WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

Redolent of lusciously ripe plums in its youth, this wine has complex layers of cocoa, cinnamon and toasted hazelnut (from 12 months in French oak barrels) that has come to the fore over time. Its appealing sweet fruit and full-bodied richness are balanced by fresh acidity and a pinch of mixed herbs. Made in a soft and approachable style, it nonetheless has enough backbone and plenty of length on the finish. This vintage would be best served with fillet mignon, lamb and mushrooms or herbed crusted beef.

