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1685

GOVERNOR OF THE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

MURATIE

stellenbosch



Ben Prins Cape Vintage 2018

Barefoot Ben. The legend lives on



BEN'S STORY

Ben Prins, Muratie's winemaker until 1987, was as unique as the wines he produced. A hard-working, no-nonsense kind of a man – quiet, contemplative and exceptionally particular – he was both a perfectionist and a traditionalist. It was said that he knew wine like the back of his hand – or, rather, foot, given that he considered shoes to be 'unnecessary novelties'! In his honour, this Port-style liqueur wine is made from traditional Port varieties (Tinta Barocca, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Francisca and Souzão) that were planted in a single vineyard in the 1970s to produce a unique 'field blend'.

VINEYARD

Muratie's Cape Vintage Port is produced from a vineyard planted way back in 1977. The varieties (Tinta Barocca, Tinta Roritz, Tinta Francesca and Souzao) are all planted in the same block. This block is harvested together so this "field blend" is unique to the Muratie Cape Vintage.

VINIFICATION

The varieties were harvested by hand then crushed and destalked before being pumped into open fermenters. Cold maceration at 10 °C for 2-3 days allowed for optimal colour and flavour extraction. Once inoculated a controlled fermentation was accompanied by regular punch-downs three to four times a day until the desired sugar concentration was reached. Fortification was carried out on the skins for further flavour extraction. After being pressed, the port was allowed to mature in barrels for three years.

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

On the nose, floral notes of violets and roses entice along with Christmas spice and plum pudding. Each sip is deeply rich, with flavours ranging from Kirsch-macerated black cherries to dark chocolate-enrobed hazelnuts. There are also savoury undertones – truffles and tobacco – with brisk acidity and warming alcohol in harmony with the lithely powerful structure. Seamlessly integrated after three years in old 225 L French Oak barrels, this world-class wine should reward contemplation for at least another two decades.

ANALYSIS

Alcohol	18.96 %
Residual sugar	88.5 g/l
Total acid	5.1 g/l
pH	3.58

