



This is a salute to the Saboteurs!

The Anarchists. The Revolutionaries. To those who break the rules and defy the status quo. The Craftsmen. The Artists. The Pioneers. Those who do not bow down and conform; nor blindly accept. Those whose passion bleeds through their art. The Pioneers who forge ahead with insight, wisdom and vision, challenging the norm and questioning convention. Those who are driven by their knowledge and their belief in a better way. Those who stand up to be counted! Luddites, fight your cause, provoke, remonstrate, interrogate. Be true to yourselves, your art, your craft. Lead the way.

Unite! - Saluez Le Saboteur!

## Saboteur 2017 Red Blend

2017 is the third consecutive very dry vintage with very little rainfall. This produced very ripe fruit with big fruit flavours. For the first time, the Saboteur Red contains Grenache Noir which goes somewhere to a Rhone Blend style; if it wasn't for the Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet Sauvignon, Mourvèdre and Grenache Noir were all fermented in small batches in open bins with regular hand punch downs. The larger Shiraz batches were fermented in stainless steel tanks with regular pump overs. All the components were pressed directly into barrel and allowed to mature with some fermentation lees. Some of the batches did malolactic fermentation in barrel which gives a fuller mouth feel and structure. This vintage was in barrel for 18 months with 40% new French Oak. All the components were aged separately.

During the blending process, great care was taken to follow the house style of Saboteur, which is increasingly building up a huge following, i.e. bold fruit, good spice and soft tannins. The blend this year is 57% Shiraz, 20% Mourvèdre, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Grenache Noir. The Grenache Noir is from the 2018 vintage which lifts the freshness and red fruit spectrum of this wine.

### Grapes were sourced from eight vineyard sites:

Bot River, Gabriëlskloof clone 1A Shiraz harvested on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
 Bot River, Gabriëlskloof clone 5A Shiraz harvested on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
 Bot River, Luddite young block Cabernet Sauvignon harvested on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017  
 Bot River, Gabriëlskloof clone 9C Shiraz harvested on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
 Bot River, Gabriëlskloof Cabernet Sauvignon harvested on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017  
 Bot River, Luddite young block Mourvèdre harvested on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017  
 Bot River, Gabriëlskloof Mourvèdre harvested on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
 Bot River, Nabot Grenache Noir harvested on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018

### Average analysis of fruit at harvest

24.8° Balling, TA – 6.0 g/l, pH – 3.48

### Tasting Notes

Appearance: Dark red and full colour to the edge.

Nose: All spice and brooding dark fruit. Rich cassis, cinnamon and cloves towards the finish.

Palate: Dark juicy fruit on entry. Broad spicy cherries and dark fruit with a decadent mid palate, full bodied with hints of ripe strawberries. The finish is dry, rich and full.

### Analysis of the wine

Alcohol: 14.85%      pH: 3.65      TA: 5.0 g/l      RS: 2.8 g/l

18 670 bottles of this vintage were produced (6 970 cork, 10 670 crown cap & 1 030 magnums)