

NEIL ELLIS

SHORT LEFT

CINSAUT 2021

Fresh and fragrant with bright berry flavours and a savoury earthiness. Soft, powdery tannins and lingering spice add length and interest.

The most scenic route is often the one less travelled. You can only learn and grow when you step out of the comfort zone into the great unknown. Maverick winemaker Neil Ellis has, over a career spanning more than 30 years, often taken the turn-offs of discovery instead of the highway of convention.

WHEN EVERYONE WAS TURNING RIGHT, NEIL WAS TURNING LEFT.

South Africans are known for their sense of adventure. They like to explore – whether it is seeing all the natural beauty the country has to offer, meeting new people or trying out new experiences. A short left doesn't have to be a quick ride – no, it's letting the road take you wherever it may lead. That is our vibe, and along the way we make sure to seek out the fun and pleasure.

LITTLE-KNOWN PLACES CAN GIVE RISE TO MOMENTOUS WINES.

Neil's perpetual travels have led him to pockets of interesting terroir in unexpected locations. It takes time to get to know a vineyard and the magical interplay between all its natural elements, he believes, and there are no shortcuts to greatness. Nor is there an ideal site for all varieties, you have to hunt down the perfect individual fit to the far-flung corners of every region.

WINEMAKING

The growing season was characterised by a shortened, harvest period without rain and moderate days with evenings not cooling down considerably. Grapes were harvested at 25°B with a total acid of 7.4 g/ℓ and a pH of 3.4. Fermentation initiated in stainless tanks and underwent a series of pump overs until dry. Further maceration allowed before drawing off and light pressing. This wine spent 14 months in 500 ℓ French oak barrels; 10% new, 20% 2nd fill and 70% older.

WINE DESCRIPTION

Deep intense colour with a bright crimson hue. A complex mix of red berries lead by raspberries, ending with spice notes and perfumed characters. The palate is bright, and youthful with raspberries and fine tannins.

VINEYARDS

The grapes were sourced from a south-west facing bush vine vineyard grown in decomposed granite and table mountain sandstone.



ALCOHOL BY VOLUME
14.0%

RESIDUAL SUGAR:
2.9 G/L

TOTAL ACIDITY:
5.8 G/L

PH:
3.43

www.neilellis.com