



Glenelly

A masterfully structured red blend from Simonsberg-Stellenbosch, Glenelly's flagship Estate Reserve 2017 showcases classic Bordeaux elegance with a South African soul.



GLENELLY
STELLENBOSCH



Estate Reserve Red Blend 2017

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

Nestled on the southern slopes of the Simonsberg in Stellenbosch, Glenelly Estate benefits from a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. The 2017 vintage saw a late but sufficiently cold winter, ensuring proper vine dormancy. A dry growing season with limited rainfall led to smaller berries and lower bunch mass, enhancing concentration while preserving elegance.

The Glenelly vineyards are planted primarily on decomposed granite soils with excellent drainage, promoting deep root penetration and balanced vine vigor. The result is a wine of expressive minerality and pronounced varietal character. The elevation and exposure to maritime breezes from False Bay contribute to optimal diurnal shifts, retaining vibrant acidity and freshness in the grapes.

Winemaking

The 2017 vintage is a meticulously assembled blend: **64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 12% Syrah, 7% Petit Verdot, and 5% Cabernet Franc**. Grapes were hand-sorted and underwent a cold soak before spontaneous fermentation in stainless steel. Daily pump-overs during fermentation enhanced extraction, followed by 2-3 weeks of extended skin contact to deepen texture and complexity.

Malolactic fermentation occurred in French oak barrels, with the wine maturing for 18 months in the same (proportion of new oak not specified). Regular racking every four months helped develop purity and finesse. The use of Syrah in a Bordeaux-style blend adds a distinctive South African twist, contributing aromatic lift and spice.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep garnet with a ruby rim, vibrant and youthful in hue.
- **Aroma:** Cassis, mulberry, and black cherry dominate, underpinned by cedar, tobacco leaf, and sandalwood. Subtle hints of mocha, Christmas cake, and leather emerge with air.
- **Palate:** Richly textured yet restrained, showing ripe cherry and blackberry with black pepper and dried herbs. Mocha and baking spices unfold mid-palate, framed by firm tannins and a fresh, linear acidity. A long, dry finish reveals great aging potential.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 12% Syrah, 7% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc



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Did you know?

Glenelly Estate was founded by **May de Lencquesaing**, former owner of Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in Pauillac. Her vision was to bring Bordeaux winemaking expertise to the Cape, and the Estate Reserve Red is a direct homage to 18th-century claret blends.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast leg of lamb with rosemary and garlic:** Complements the wine's earthy spice and tannic structure.
- **Beef short ribs braised in red wine:** Echoes the wine's dark fruit and savory depth.
- **Grilled portobello mushrooms with balsamic glaze:** Enhances the wine's tertiary notes and silky texture.
- **Aged cheddar or Comté cheese:** Matches the wine's richness and dry finish.



Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2017)

Fleshy, ripe and fruit-forward, the 2017 Estate Reserve Red offers gobs of dark red fruit essence that bursts from the glass with a generous frame and lively tension. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is still tight and needs additional time in the bottle to come around but will continue to gain complexity over the next decade. The wine ends with ripe plum compote and spiced cherry skin essence on the long, succulent finish. Rating: 92+



James Suckling (JS) : 90 Points (2017)

Notes of ripe black fruit, leafy herbs, dark chocolate, cedar and mushrooms. Full-bodied with tangy acidity and fine, slightly chewy tannins. Savory and spicy character on the mid-palate and notes of walnuts to close. Drink now.



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 92 Points (2016)

This is a blend of 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 15% Syrah and a drop of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that opens with smoky aromas and grilled bell pepper over a core of dense red and black fruit. It's bold, but lively acidity adds elegance. Flavors of herbs, green bell pepper, peppercorn and chocolate are supported by fine-grained tannins



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