

WINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

TESSELAARSDAL

HEMEL-EN-AARDE RIDGE

PINOT NOIR

2016

This wine boasts a fine, bright sour red berry character, and even hints of violets on the nose—bright and elegant start to finish. Lifted acidity and tightness with a hardening line of minerality place it more in the old-world than the new. It is distinctly feminine and elegant with a lovely dusting of grape tannins.

Tesselaarsdal was founded in 2015 by long-standing Hamilton Russell Vineyards employee Berene Sauls. It is named after the historic Overberg farming hamlet of Tesselaarsdal—not far from the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge wine appellation—where Berene was born, a descendant of the freed slaves who were bequeathed the land of the Tesselaarsdal valley by former Dutch East India Company soldier Johannes Tesselaar's widow in 1832.



ALC / ACID / PH	13.8% / 6.3 / 3.38
RESIDUAL SUGAR	1.8
BARREL AGEING	9.5 months
WOODING	100% 228 litre French oak barrels
TIGHT GRAIN	100% (MLT 21%, Medium 36%, Blonde 43%)
FRENCH COOPERS	François Frères 75%, Mercurey 25%
MLF (FILLS)	1 st : 25% / 2 nd : 25% / 3 rd : 50%
YIELD	6 tons/ha
PRODUCTION	107.83 cases
FRUIT ORIGIN	Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, La Vierge Vineyards (100% unirrigated)
RELEASED	February 2017

2016 was an unusually early and short harvest with almost exactly the same timing as 2015.

The character of the vintages, however, are surprisingly different. In most of the winelands, the story was of excessive heat and extreme dryness, but this was not the case for the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge. Close proximity to the cool South Atlantic kept the maximum temperatures in check, and we also benefitted from timely rain from the southeast which seldom reaches the warmer inland areas.

January was considerably warmer than our long-term average, yet not drier than average, and the crucial February to March period was wetter than average without being warmer.

A relatively warm December, followed by a hot January was probably the main factor in making 2016 an early year. The resulting wines are sure to delight the purists and will perhaps be seen as more typical of our style.

Berene

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