

WINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

# TESSELAARSDAL

HEMEL-EN-AARDE RIDGE

## PINOT NOIR

2017

*Our best vintage to date, the 2017 has greater depth, structure and plushness of palate than both the 2016 and 2015, retaining the clean, lifted blue fruit that is a characteristic of the best Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge Pinot Noirs. This wine combines the tight minerality of the old world with the pure sumptuous fruit of the new.*

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% / 5.61 / 3.44
RESIDUAL SUGAR	1.85
BARREL AGEING	9.5 months
WOODING	100% 228 litre French oak barrels
TIGHT GRAIN	100%
FRENCH COOPERS	François Frères 100%
MLF (FILLS)	1 <sup>st</sup> : 30% / 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 23% / 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 30% / 4 <sup>th</sup> : 17%
YIELD	6 tons/ha
PRODUCTION	322.58 cases
FRUIT ORIGIN	Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, La Vierge Vineyards (100% unirrigated)
RELEASED	February 2018

2017 repeated the trend of 2015 and 2016, but surpassed them both in quality. As in the preceding two years, while excessive heat and extreme dryness reigned in the rest of the winelands, the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge remained relatively temperate due to its close proximity to the South Atlantic and timely rain from the southeast. For the third year in a row, January was warmer than our long-term average but not drier than average, and the crucial February to March period wetter than average without being warmer. The high temperatures of December intensified in January and again accelerated the harvest; but this time, the resulting wines are in a class of their own, the finest we have produced to date, truly exemplifying our style.

*Berene*

BERENE SAULS, OWNER

T + 27 28 312 3595



C + 27 73 322 9499

*Emul Ross*

EMUL ROSS, WINEMAKER

TESSELAARSDALWINES.CO.ZA