

WINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

# TESSELAARSDAL

HEMEL-EN-AARDE RIDGE

## PINOT NOIR

2019

*This small-production, classically-styled Pinot Noir succinctly expresses the personality of the cool, maritime Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge and its elevated, iron-rich soils. Lifted wild red fruit and sour cherry aromas give way to a silky palate tinged with delectable, salty minerality. A profoundly graceful wine that will age beautifully.*

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	13.30% / 6.0 / 3.31
RESIDUAL SUGAR	1.6
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> : 35% / 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 29% / 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 29% / 4 <sup>th</sup> : 7%
YIELD	6 tons/ha
PRODUCTION	327.5 cases
FRUIT ORIGIN	Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, La Vierge Vineyards (100% unirrigated)
RELEASED	February 2020

The 2019 harvest season tested even the most skilled winemakers. Early leaf fall after three years of drought left reduced reserves for vines to mature grapes. Spring was characterised by intense weather fluctuations, resulting in a reduced number of looser and uneven bunches with smaller berries. Vineyards were off to a slow start and growth was erratic due to variations between warm and cold days and low soil temperatures. A heatwave at the end of October was followed by cold, windy conditions during the flowering and set phase of many vineyards. This led to unevenness in bunches and berries between vines in the same block and even on the same grapevine. Though these challenges resulted in a reduced yield, the vintage was excellent, filled with character.

*Berene*

BERENE SAULS, OWNER

T + 27 28 312 3595



C + 27 73 322 9499

*Emul Ross*

EMUL ROSS, WINEMAKER