

# Merlot Backsberg 2019



## Region

The Coastal Region is undoubtedly the most important wine producing region of the country. This is the historical heart of South African wines. Although a large appellation, the most prominent areas within this region are concentrated around the Cape Peninsula and the Northern Cape spreading across 420 miles (700 km) north to south. The coastal influence of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans is one of the most influential climatic feature that affects the wine industry in the coastal region. The overall warm climate helps to ripen the grapes during the day whereas the cold nights ensure that the flavour profiles and the acidity of the wines are maintained. Like the climate, the Coastal Region's soil profile also varies dramatically across the landscape. These range from clay dominated, moisture retaining soils, well draining shales to calcareous and lime-rich outcrops.

## Producer

Founded in 1916, this wonderful estate is located below 'The Little Tower of Babylon' on the steep hillside vineyards in Paarl. This prominent producer has been at the forefront of quality wine production for many years. Currently under the stewardship of fourth generation Simon Back, they are making considerable waves in the international market. Recently achieving carbon neutral status, the first in South Africa. They constantly strive to produce the highest quality grapes using natural and organic principles. Alicia Rechner is back at the helm as winemaker and is well supported by viticulturalist Clive Trent.

## Tasting Notes

Deep ruby in colour with an aromatic bouquet of raspberry, red cherry and plums which are tempered by the deft use of French oak. The palate is redolent with succulent, sweet red fruit flavours and finely coated in ripe mouth filling tannins. Smokey and savoury characters from 12-18 months oak aging provide a subtle background to this complex and well balanced wine.

## Food

Goes very well with dishes such as duck, lamb, sirloin steak and pastas. Also a great accompaniment to chocolate and mint desserts.

### Technical Information

<b>Country</b>	South Africa	<b>Dry/Sweet Style</b>	Not applicable
<b>Region</b>	Coastal Region	<b>Alcohol Content</b>	14%
<b>Grape(s)</b>	Merlot (100%)	<b>Closure Style</b>	Cork
<b>Type</b>	Red	<b>Organic/Biodynamic</b>	No
<b>Style</b>	Smooth	<b>Allergens</b>	<b>Milk:</b> No <b>Egg:</b> No
<b>Oaked Style</b>	Lightly oaked	<b>Vegetarian/Vegan</b>	<b>Vegetarian:</b> Yes <b>Vegan:</b> Yes
<b>Body Style</b>	Medium bodied		
<b>Sustainable</b>	Yes-certified sustainable		



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