

Philippe Foucher

SYRAH · 2021

WINE OF ORIGIN PAARL

Wines are made not only for the moment of drinking, but for patience, memory, and time.

THE VINEYARD

Philippe Foucher 2021 reveals a broader, more generous expression of Syrah, while remaining firmly rooted in the elegance and restraint that define the wine. Grown on the slopes of the Klein Drakenstein Mountains, the vineyard benefits from Paarl's warmth while remaining exposed to cooler mountain air and constant movement through the vines. This combination encourages full phenolic ripeness without sacrificing the freshness required to carry a wine of this depth.

The sandy clay loam soils contribute substantially to the character of the vineyard. Their ability to retain sufficient moisture while providing structure allows the vines to ripen steadily through the season, producing Syrah with dark fruit concentration, supple texture and a naturally substantial frame. The mountain position adds another dimension, helping preserve aromatic clarity and lending definition to what is an inherently generous wine.

IN THE CELLAR

Rather than imposing a house style upon each vintage, La Luandière allows the growing season to guide the final expression of the wine.

The cellar philosophy remains one of minimal intervention, careful extraction, and long maturation, but the objective is always to respond to the character of the fruit rather than force it in a particular direction. Extraction is therefore considered rather than aggressive, preserving both the richness and the finer detail of the Syrah.

The wine spends approximately twelve months maturing in French oak. The role of the barrel is not to dominate, but to provide a framework in which the fruit, tannin and texture can gradually come together. An extended period of bottle maturation follows, allowing the wine to gain greater harmony before release and giving its naturally rich personality time to settle into a more polished form.

TASTING NOTES

The 2021 vintage demonstrates particularly well how generosity and discipline can coexist. There is ample ripeness and concentration, but beneath that richness lies the structural integrity required to prevent the wine from becoming excessive. Its appeal is immediate, yet there is sufficient density and tannin to suggest a long and rewarding evolution ahead.

Deep and intense, with a ripe fruited nose, an overt and velvety palate, warm and comforting. Not shy of alcohol, this is a serious and voluptuous wine which seems to open in the

mouth and grow in intensity. It is not overblown or overworked, however, and maintains a silky black bramble note throughout, the finish even suggests a note of creamy richness. Definitely a premium wine, it is complex yet inviting and made for drinking and doesn't need to be aged for years, though its backbone and density suggest it could.

What immediately distinguishes the 2021 is the way the wine seems to expand across the palate. Its dark fruit character is deep and expressive, moving through ripe blackberry, black bramble and plum into softer layers of spice and savoury complexity. The texture is notably velvety, giving the wine a luxurious mouthfeel while the underlying tannin keeps its richness contained.

There is warmth here, certainly, but it forms part of the wine's personality rather than overwhelming it. The concentration of fruit, alcohol and oak is held together by a firm structural core, creating a wine that feels substantial without becoming cumbersome. As it opens, the fruit becomes increasingly succulent, while the finish develops an attractive creamy quality alongside lingering dark berry and spice.

CELLARING

The contrast between voluptuousness and control is central to the character of this vintage. Philippe Foucher 2021 is fuller and more overt in its expression, yet there remains a sense of precision beneath the surface. Fine tannins provide definition, the oak sits comfortably within the fruit, and the wine retains sufficient freshness to carry its considerable weight.

Although already immensely inviting, the 2021 has the density and backbone to mature confidently in bottle. With time, its ripe black fruit is expected to move towards more complex notes of dried herbs, earth, black pepper, leather and savoury spice, while its initially plush texture becomes increasingly seamless.

Philippe Foucher 2021 is a richly expressive Syrah with a distinctly luxurious character: powerful without being heavy, voluptuous without becoming excessive, and structured enough to ensure that its generosity remains beautifully composed.

