

Susanne Foucher

RED BLEND · 2020

WINE OF ORIGIN PAARL

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

THE BLEND

Susanne Foucher is created through the quiet art of assemblage, bringing together several red varieties grown across La Luandière to form a wine that is greater than any one component. Each cultivar contributes something individual, yet the purpose of the blend is not to showcase them separately. It is to find the point at which fruit, structure, freshness and texture become seamless.

Cabernet Sauvignon provides the architectural backbone of the wine, bringing depth, darker fruit and a firm structural core. Malbec introduces softness and generosity, broadening the palate and lending a more rounded texture, while Cabernet Franc contributes perfume, freshness and the finer aromatic detail that lifts the blend.

The vineyards are shaped by the warmth of Paarl and the movement of cooler air from the Klein Drakenstein Mountains. Sandy clay loam soils provide both substance and structure, allowing the grapes to develop full flavour while retaining the balance required for a composed, enduring wine. It is this combination of warmth and restraint that gives Susanne Foucher its distinctive character.

IN THE CELLAR

In the cellar, each component is handled with sensitivity to its individual nature before becoming part of the final blend. Our philosophy remains one of minimal intervention, careful extraction, and long maturation. Fermentation is approached gently, preserving the natural fruit and avoiding excessive extraction that might overwhelm the elegance of the finished wine.

Maturation in French oak for approximately twelve months allows the individual varieties to gain texture and depth before the wine is afforded further time in bottle. This extended ageing is particularly important in a blend, allowing the separate elements to lose their edges and gradually become a single, cohesive expression.

The intention is not to produce a wine of sheer power. Susanne Foucher is built around proportion. Fruit must remain generous without becoming opulent, tannin must provide shape without hardness, and oak must support the wine without becoming a defining flavour. Its strength lies in the harmony between these elements.

TASTING NOTES

Glossy ruby-garnet sheen on a mid-depth wine, the nose is soft and fruity and moderately generous. Mellow and supple in the mouth, it is full of winter mixed red berries and hides its

alcohol nicely. This is a slender, harmonious wine, not a fruit bomb, not showy, but pliant, interesting and an excellent food match where it will not overpower. Suited to earlier drinking, perhaps, while the fruit is clean and juicy.

The 2020 vintage has an appealing lightness of touch. Red berries and dark cherry form the centre of the wine, accompanied by subtler notes of dried herbs and winter fruit. There is ripeness, but it is expressed with restraint, giving the wine a graceful rather than overtly powerful character.

Its mid-weight structure is part of its appeal. The tannins are supple and finely integrated, allowing the fruit to remain bright and accessible, while the Cabernet Sauvignon provides sufficient backbone to keep the palate composed. Malbec softens the contours of the wine and Cabernet Franc adds freshness and aromatic lift, giving the blend both movement and detail.

French oak sits quietly beneath the fruit, contributing polish and gentle structure rather than obvious flavour. The alcohol is similarly well integrated, leaving the wine balanced and fluid across the palate. Nothing dominates, and the individual components gradually become difficult to separate from the whole.

There is an understated savoury character beneath the fresh red fruit, with dried herbs and gentle earthy nuances beginning to emerge. These elements give the wine additional interest at the table, where its moderate weight and supple structure allow it to accompany food without overpowering it.

CELLARING

Although capable of further development in bottle, Susanne Foucher 2020 possesses a natural approachability that makes it particularly attractive in its youth. Its clean fruit, fine tannins and harmonious structure are already beautifully resolved, while additional time should encourage the emergence of more savoury, earthy and gently spiced secondary notes.

Susanne Foucher 2020 is ultimately a wine of balance rather than bravado: graceful, composed and quietly expressive. It reflects the character of several vineyards and cultivars brought together with a single purpose, creating a wine intended not simply for contemplation, but for the table, shared meals and the occasions that gather around them.

