

Susanne Foucher

RED BLEND · 2021

WINE OF ORIGIN PAARL

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

THE BLEND

The 2021 Susanne Foucher reveals a more defined and structured expression of La Luandière's red blend, while retaining the elegance and restraint that are central to its character. There is greater depth than in the preceding vintage, yet the wine remains measured rather than imposing, allowing its fruit, texture and savoury detail to unfold without excess.

The blend draws on three varieties, each contributing a distinct element to the finished wine. Cabernet Sauvignon forms the structural core, bringing darker fruit, depth and tannin. Malbec lends generosity and a softer, more rounded middle palate, while Cabernet Franc introduces freshness, perfume and the subtle herbal and earthy nuances that bring additional complexity.

Across the estate, these varieties are shaped by Paarl's warm growing conditions and the cooler air moving from the Klein Drakenstein Mountains. The sandy clay loam soils provide sufficient substance for concentration while encouraging the firm, composed structure required for a wine intended to develop beyond its youth. Together, site and season give the 2021 a little more depth and definition without losing its natural suppleness.

IN THE CELLAR

The work in the cellar is guided by minimal intervention, careful extraction, and long maturation. Each variety is handled according to its own character, with extraction kept measured so that tannin and colour are drawn gently rather than forced. The aim is to preserve the clarity of the fruit and allow the structure of the vintage to emerge naturally.

Approximately twelve months in French oak gives the individual components time to develop texture and complexity. The oak is intended to frame the wine rather than flavour it, supporting the fruit and tannin while remaining discreet. Further bottle maturation allows the varieties to draw together, gradually replacing the sense of separate components with a more complete and unified expression.

In the 2021 vintage, that integration is accompanied by a firmer underlying framework. The wine has more shape through the palate than the 2020, yet it remains supple and generous, with its structure providing definition rather than severity.

TASTING NOTES

The nose and appearance are perhaps a shade deeper than the 2020, still elegant and glossy and showing careful extraction. The palate too has more definition, some structured skeleton, not racy or firm, and with a moderately layered fruit profile.

There is familiar deftness and restrained winemaking here, the fruit is precise and refined if difficult to describe, still those forest berries, summer pudding and slightly earthy edge. This wine will age reasonably, though the generous fruit and plumpness can be enjoyed fully in its youth and better express its charms.

The fruit profile of the 2021 is layered rather than overt. Forest berries, ripe red and darker fruits and the nostalgic richness of summer pudding sit at the centre, with a subtle earthy quality providing contrast beneath them. The character is generous, but the fruit remains precise and finely drawn rather than broad or excessively ripe.

A little more structure gives the palate greater definition. Cabernet Sauvignon provides the frame, while Malbec fills the centre with softness and volume. Cabernet Franc contributes freshness and aromatic detail, preventing the wine's natural plumpness from becoming heavy and adding a gently savoury dimension to the finish.

The tannins are fine and polished, present enough to give the wine shape without interrupting its smooth movement across the palate. Oak and alcohol are absorbed comfortably into the whole, leaving the fruit as the dominant impression and allowing the wine to retain the understated character that defines Susanne Foucher.

CELLARING

There is enough density and structure for the 2021 to continue developing in bottle, where the fresh berry character should gradually give way to more complex notes of dried herbs, earth, gentle spice and mature red fruit. Yet longevity is not the only measure of this wine. Its generous fruit and supple texture make it particularly rewarding in its youth, when its freshness and immediacy are at their most expressive.

Susanne Foucher 2021 finds its identity in the meeting of structure and generosity. More defined and layered than the preceding vintage, it remains elegant, approachable and quietly composed, a wine with sufficient depth to evolve, but enough charm to make waiting entirely optional.

