

# THE LIBERATOR FRANCOPHILE SYRAH 2019

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## WINE INTRODUCTION

The Liberator is the project of Richard Kelley MW, one of the most respected authorities on South African wine. The Liberator seeks out and celebrates marginalised parcels of wine which for whatever reason risk being blended and sold off in bulk. Each wine has a strong story behind it, with each release having its testimony recounted in bottle and on screen as an 'episode'. Sourcing and creating The Francophile Syrah marked a departure for Rick who commissioned the making of this young vine Syrah, rather than liberating an existing parcel. It's intended to be sustainable and repeatable; to be enjoyed copiously in the knowledge that it is not subject to the finite quantities imposed by The Liberator Episodes or Special Editions.

## WINEMAKING NOTES

Hand-picked from the weathered granite soils on the cooler south-east facing slopes of the Bottelary Hills, these grapes were sourced with Rick's Francophile palate in mind. For the benefit of those anoraks among you, the wine was fermented in stainless steel tanks (using indigenous yeasts), incorporating around 15% of whole bunches to help retain both fruit and freshness. After enjoying a two week post-fermentation maceration, the young wine was drawn-off into concrete tanks, stainless steel and seasoned barriques where it underwent the malo-lactic fermentation, before being aged for a further 12 months and then bottled (without filtration).

## APPEARANCE, AROMA AND TASTING NOTE

Ask Rick which wine The Francophile Syrah most resembles and he'd probably compare it to a young Crozes-Hermitage. Full of vibrant red-black fruit and with an aromatic nose reminiscent of Saint-Joseph lilies, the result is a thrilling young red that is free of the constraints and manipulated flavour profile that come with barrel-ageing. This is a very pure and naked example of the Syrah grape. Dangerously drinkable on release, it could be expected to age for three to five years in bottle.

## WINE INFORMATION

Country:	South Africa
Region:	Stellenbosch
Wine Type:	Red Wine
Producer:	The Liberator
Wine Name:	Francophile Syrah
Vintage:	2018
Principle Grape (%):	Syrah (100)
Closure:	Cork
ABV (%):	14.00
Bottle Size:	75cl
Case/Pack Size:	6x75cl