

# Vilafonte Series C

## THE FACTS

**COUNTRY:** South Africa

**REGION:** Western Cape

**CEPAGE:** 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 10% Malbec, 8% Cabernet Franc

**WINEMAKING:** Fermented in oak and steel, aged 22 months in French oak

**ALCOHOL BY VOLUME:** 14.5%

**AGING:** Aged 22 mnths in 68% new & 32% seasoned French oak barriques

## THE STORY

Vilafonté, in South Africa's Paarl-Simonsberg region, was founded in 1996 by Michael Ratcliffe, Zelma Long, and Phil Freese. Named after its ancient "vilafontes" soils (750,000–1.5 million years old), the winery produces Bordeaux blends that are globally acclaimed. Winemakers Chris des Vries and Arlene Mains lead the creation of wines celebrated for elegance, complexity, and longevity.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Arlene Mains, Head Winemaker of Seriously Old Dirt, shifted from Microbiology to Viticulture at Stellenbosch University. With an MSc in Wine Biotechnology and experience at Opus One and Mouton Rothschild, she oversees Vilafonté's vineyard and cellar. Her 2019 discovery of old Cabernet vines enhanced the wine's depth. Arlene blends kindness, innovation, and joy in her winemaking.

## THE ADJECTIVES

**OVERALL:** Powerful and polished with rich fruit, elegance, and harmony

**AROMAS / FLAVORS:** Black currant, licorice, juniper berry, cedar, blue/black fruits

**MOUTHFEEL:** Broad & layered w/ ripe tannins, weight, & satin texture

## THE SELLING POINTS

Flagship Bordeaux blend w/ structure, depth, & aging potent

**AWARDS:** 96pts Tim Atkin, 94pts Wine Spectator

**PAIRINGS:** Pair with ribeye, lamb shank, black garlic, or truffle mushroom risotto

