

Vilafonte Series M

THE FACTS

COUNTRY: South Africa

REGION: Western Cape

CEPAGE: 43% Merlot, 37% Malbec, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc

WINEMAKING: Fermented in steel and oak; aged 22 months in French barrels

AGING: 22 months in French oak barriques, 12% new, 88% seasoned

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 SELLING POINTS

Elegant Merlot-Malbec blend with floral lift, depth, and fin

AWARDS: 94pts Vinous, 91pts Wine Spectator

