

**EAGLES' NEST MERLOT 2012**



Eagles' Nest, located on the crest of Constantia Nek pass, is nestled at the foot of the awe inspiring Table Mountain. This pristine and boutique family owned vineyard (38 Ha in size) has in recent years gained a reputation for both its striking beauty and award winning wines.

Uniquely characteristic of its wines is a signature of finesse, derived from the cooler climate conditions its vines are exposed to as a result of its elevation and close proximity to the oceanic body that is False Bay, thus delivering very distinctive wines not found elsewhere in South Africa.

Quality and consistency is paramount at Eagles' Nest. Our unique terroir, combined with meticulous attention to detail in the vineyards and cellar, yields wines that are the epitome of elegance and balance.

Varieties: Merlot 88%; Cabernet franc 9% Cab.Sauvignon 3%  
Bottling date: February 2014  
Hectares: 4,1 ha

**Analysis:**  
**Alcohol** 14.0 vol % | **Sugar** 3,3 g/l | **TA** 5,6 g/l | **pH** 3,50 | **TSO<sub>2</sub>** 99 mg/l | **FSO<sub>2</sub>** 21 mg/l

The grapes for this wine were the seventh and eighth vintage off eleven and twelve year old vines. The vineyard aspects range from North East to North West, against rugged mountain slopes. All grapes were hand-picked, hand sorted and crushed into medium sized open top fermenters. Punch-downs and pump-over's were performed three to four times per day, these practices being determined by twice daily tastings of the tanks. Fermentation took 9 days to complete, after which the free run wine was drawn off and the skins pressed separately. The wine was then racked into first (1/3<sup>rd</sup>), second (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) and third (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) fill barrels where malo-lactic fermentation took place. Six different cooperages were used, each specifically chosen to complement the different nuances of this very complex wine. During maturation, the wine was racked three times. After 18 months in barrel the best barrels were racked to tank and blended to create a harmonious finished product. A light filtration preceded bottling in February 2014

This 2012 vintage has deliciously appealing crushed blackberry, cherry and cedarwood aromas. Meticulous attention in the vineyard and cellar combine to produce a wine with textured fruit purity and tantalizingly firm yet more-ish tannins. As with all Eagles' Nest red's there is a subtle peppery savouriness that makes this wine both distinctive and gives testament to its origin on a cool windswept mountainside. The palate is a satisfying combination of perfectly ripe berry fruit, subtle spice, balanced tannins and a focused and persistent mouthfeel. This wine is ready to drink now but will benefit from correct cellaring until 2027

**Eagles Nest Merlot 2012**

Tim Atkin SA Report 2016: 91 Points | Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show Top 3 | SAWI Awards 2016: Grand Gold | Gold: Michelangelo Wine Awards | 4,5 Stars, 2016 Platter Wine Guide

**Eagles Nest Merlot 2011**

Tim Atkin SA Report 2015: 92 Points | 4,5 Stars, 2016 Platter Wine Guide

**Eagles Nest Merlot 2010**

4,5 Stars, 2015 Platter Wine Guide | Wine Advocate: 90 Points

**Eagles Nest Merlot 2009**

Veritas Double Gold (2013) | Winemakers Choice Awards: Diamond (2014) | 4,5 Stars, 2014 Platter Wine Guide | Tim Atkin SA Report 2014: 91 Points | Decanter World Wine Awards 2013: Silver (Ranked within top 15% of wines entered) | International Wine and Spirit Competition 2013: Silver

**Eagles Nest Merlot 2008**

La Sélection - Médaille d'Or Switzerland (2012) | Four Stars Classic FM Wine Magazine | Classic FM Wine Magazine: Tied Best Merlot (2012) | 4,5\* 2013 John Platter Guide (5\* Nominee)

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