

Since its launch more than a decade ago Ernie Els Wines has established a magnificent portfolio of South African red wines, housed under three separate brands to offer quality wines for everyone at various different price-points. Ernie himself is passionate about wine and is very much involved in the tasting process. In partnership with experienced winemaker Louis Strydom their shared passion for wine is reflected in the quality of the product right across the price ranges.

Ernie Els Big Easy 2022

CSPC# 755116

12x750ml

13.87% alc./vol.

Chemical Analysis Acidity 5.7 g/l pH: 3.67 Residual Sugar 2.0 g/l
Grape Variety 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Shiraz, 5% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Malbec.

Region Stellenbosch, South Africa
Sustainability Vegan Certified.

Sustainability Initiative: I.P.W. (Integrated Production of Wine) Certified

Winemaker Louis Strydom

Vintage The 2022 vintage will definitely be remembered as the year where we had good fruit set. After pruning, budburst came about two weeks later than expected. This resulted in flowering occurring in a period with cooler temperatures. More berries per vine means a good balance between reproductive and vegetative growth, and, because we restrict pruning to allow for a certain tonnage per hectare, we don't overburden the leaves. Mild conditions allowed the vines to catch up nicely with warm days after veraison. The heat before harvest is very important for the development of red cultivars and especially for the premium quality of our Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec were sourced from selected vineyard parcels on the Helderberg Mountain within the Stellenbosch appellation. The typical soils found on the Helderberg provide a rich middle-palate weight, giving the wine exceptional depth and fruit purity. With an altitude of approximately 250 metres above sea level together with the cooling influence of the Atlantic Ocean just 15 kilometres away, this extends the ripening period by up to 3 weeks resulting in lovely phenolic ripeness.

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Harvest The grapes were harvested in the early hours of the morning when temperatures were coolest, before destalking and optical sorting took place.

Vinification/ The wine was fermented in open top stainless-steel tanks, with regular pump-overs and punch-downs to maintain a harmonious balance between colour, flavour, and tannin extraction from the skins. The Shiraz component was partially whole bunch fermented to aid with flavour complexity and fruit intensity. Following the primary fermentation stage, each variety underwent extended maceration and additionally matured in concrete eggs or oak barrels, before blending and bottling took place.



Maturation	Aged for 14 months in 300-Litre French and American oak barrels (10% new). A small portion (5%) of the Cabernet Sauvignon was matured in concrete eggs for 8 months
Tasting Notes	Ruby with a translucent rim. Fresh cinnamon, all-spice and tobacco leaf curl across a mix of black and red cherries. Cabernet Sauvignon led, a component of Shiraz layers in spicy perfume and pine needle freshness. Hints of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec add curves in all the right places with lashings of ink and cacao, red-peppers and tomato leaf. Utter harmony between medium-body and well-judged freshness acts as a springboard for the complexity of fruit and silky-smooth tannins.
Serve with	Grilled beef medallions in a peppercorn sauce
Cellaring	Delicious now, it will swing easy for another 5-6 years.
Scores/Awards	4 stars / 87 points - Malu Lambert, Platter's South African Wine Guide 2025 Silver Medal / 90 points - International Wine Challenge 2024 Bronze Medal / 88 Points - Decanter World Wine Awards 2024
Reviews	<i>"Wafts of fynbos, meat & peppered plums on 2022, 50/30 cab & shiraz with 4 others. 14 months in oak, 10% new, for extra tannin grip. Also in 1.5L. Certified vegan, as most of the wines."</i> - MW, Platters Wine Guide
