

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 Signature 2017

CSPC# 151806

6x750ml

14.77% alc./vol.

Producing a wine made up of five Bordeaux varieties to reflect the unique diversity of the Stellenbosch terroir. This wine, made by cellar master Louis Strydom, is Ernie Els and Jean Engelbrecht's vision to produce an exceptional wine, reflecting their respective commitment to quality.

Chemical Analysis	Acidity	6.3 g/l	pH:	3.56	Residual Sugar	2.0 g/l
Grape Variety	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Franc.					
Region	Stellenbosch, South Africa					
Winemaker	Louis Strydom					
Green Credentials	Accredited Integrated Production of Wine (IPW) estate. Vegan Certified.					
Vintage	The previous growing season had its challenges, which seemed to roll over into the 2016/2017 growing season with the continuation of the drought. Winter 2016 was quite dry with even less rain than the previous year. Spring was an illusion as we basically went straight into warmer summer days. Bud burst was good due to sufficient soil moisture, but with the warmer spring/summer weather the soil started losing moisture quickly which naturally reduced shoot growth. The vineyard then naturally focuses its energy on developing and ripening the small bunches. Smaller berries led to more concentrated colour and flavour. The dry conditions also led to the vineyards and grapes being very healthy overall. With moderate, but warm days during December and January we saw the start of harvest return to its normal date. The uninterrupted warmth during harvest also helped the bunches reach optimal ripeness while the berries steadily developed their flavours over a slightly longer period of time.					
Vineyards	All fruit was sourced from the Ernie Els Wines property, with vineyards that grow on the warm north-facing slopes of the Helderberg region within the Stellenbosch appellation. Each variety is separately managed to create unique and varied flavour profiles for this classic Bordeaux-style blend. With an altitude of approximately 250 metres above sea level, together with the cooling influence of the Atlantic Ocean, the ripening period can be extended resulting in wines with phenolic ripeness.					
Harvest	The grapes are hand-picked in the cool of early morning.					
Vinification	Whole berries were fermented in open top tanks and barrels with intermittent pump-overs and punch-downs to ensure a balance between flavour, colour and tannin extraction from the skins. All ferments were meticulously monitored to ensure that all the natural aromas and flavours are preserved. After primary fermentation, some tanks will undergo extended maceration. Each variety was matured separately in oak before final blending.					
Maturation	Aged for 18 months in French oak barrels (60% new).					



Tasting Notes	Deep garnet with ruby core. Classic and refined, the nose unspools with new leather, newspapers from the press, and cinnamon dusted plum. Sappy cassis and black cherry coalesce along a plummy line of acidity. The tannins are perfectly rounded by time in the bottle and draw the ample fruit into a beautifully dry finish that lingers with resonance.
Serve with	Beef Tenderloin, sumac studded, duck sauce, turnip gratin. Also great with game meats, lamb.
Production	3,000 x 6pk cases
Cellaring	This is not the most powerful of Ernie Els Signature's, but it perhaps holds the most impressive structure and will provide for long aging ahead. Enjoy now through to 2027+.
Scores/Awards	95 points (5 stars) - Meryl Weaver, Platter's South African Wine Guide 2024 95 points / Gold Medal - Decanter World Wine Awards - January 2023 91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - March 2023 17.55/20 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - September 2024 Silver Medal - International Wine Challenge (score only) - 2023
Reviews	<i>"Distinguished packaging & return to form for 2017 flagship 5-way Bordeaux blend. Like 2016 (4.5 stars, 93 pts), majority cab & merlot (60/25), but fresher, touch lighter alc (14.7%) & more classically styled. Lovely intensity & complexity, 18 months in oak, 60% new, providing harmonious framework for dark core of cassis, cigar box & savoury spice. Infanticide even after 5 years in the bottle, deserves decade or more in the cellar. Also in 1.5L."</i> - MW, Platters Wine Guide <i>"Classic and refined, the nose unspools with new leather, newspapers from the press, and cinnamon dusted plum. The 2017 vintage delivered concentrated fruit and this is evidenced on the weighty palate; showing off dark curves lined in velvet tannins. Sappy cassis and black cherry coalesce along a plummy line of acidity. The tannins are perfectly rounded by time in the bottle and draw the ample fruit into a beautifully dry finish that lingers with resonance."</i> - Decanter <i>"Subtle and delicate fruit with a menthol coolness, cold smoke, ash and flint, elderberries, and bitter cedar notes. A racy and straightforward nose. The palate only reveals all this after extended aeration, so decanting for a few hours is recommended. The fresh acidity, the never jammy fruit, excellent structure, and the tightly woven and long finish demonstrate its quality. It has the potential to improve significantly."</i> - Vinum
