

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.

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## Ernie Els Proprietor's Blend 2022

CSPC# 721146

6x750ml

14.0% alc./vol.

**Chemical Analysis** Acidity 5.9 g/l pH: 3.61 Residual Sugar 2.5 g/l

**Grape Variety** 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Shiraz, 10% Merlot.

**Region** Stellenbosch, South Africa

**Sustainability** Accredited Integrated Production of Wine (IPW) estate. Vegan Certified.

**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.

**Winemaker** Louis Strydom

**Vineyards** The Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards grow on the warm north-facing slopes of the Helderberg region within the Stellenbosch appellation. The soils contain a high gravel content which offers rich middle palate weight giving this 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.

**Harvest** The grapes are hand-harvesting in the cool of the early morning.

**Maturation** Whole berries were fermented in Nico Velo concrete tanks with intermittent pump-overs and punch-downs to ensure a balance between flavour, colour and tannin extraction from the skins. The Shiraz component was partially whole bunch fermented to aid with flavour complexity. All ferments were meticulously monitored to ensure that the natural aromas and flavours were preserved. After primary fermentation, some tanks underwent extended maceration. Each variety was matured separately in oak before final blending and bottling. Aged for 18 months in French oak barrels (60% new).

**Tasting Notes** Opaque crimson. Opens with savoury intensity, charred meat, black cedar, cassis, hints of balsamic and crushed juniper. The aromatics follow onto the palate weaving through a dark heart of blackcurrant, flowing to ruby-bright pomegranate. The fruit carries along a crystalline acidity, the tannins tight and focused. Sumptuous with fruited depth, the six varieties are in perfect, harmonic accord. Built to age gracefully.

**Serve with** Great when served with a big steak.

**Scores/Awards** **4.5\* stars (94 points)** - Malu Lambert, Platter's South African Wine Guide 2026  
**Gold Medal / 96 points** - Decanter World Wine Awards 2025



**Reviews** *"6-way partnership of 2021 (5 stars, 96 pts) whittled down to 60/30 cab & shiraz, soupçon merlot in 2022, delicious combo of juicy red fruit in a powerful frame lined with velvet. Supported by zippy orange-toned acid, judicious oaking, 18 months, 45% new, & appetising dry grip."*  
- MW, wineonaplatter.com

*"Packed with ambition and promise: blackcurrant, prune, herb and violet aromas nestle into the richly toasted structure with gravelly tannins and a delicious mocha length."*  
- Decanter World Wine Awards

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