

## Vilafonté

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Owner(s): M Ratcliffe, Z Long & P Freese

Winemaker(s): Martin Smith

WO; Paarl/Stellenbosch



Vintage Score best drinking

### Seriously Old Dirt

RRR

<b>2014:</b> firm and dry, still young, with rustic dark berry fruit and a shortish finish.	<b>2014</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2014-2024</b>
<b>2015:</b> dark fruited, clean and focussed, lots of supple tannins, honest and with some depth.	<b>2015</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2015-2025</b>
<b>2016:</b> more raspy and sappy than '15, with taut briary red berry fruit, a hint of cooked flavours linger, but still deep and satisfying.	<b>2016</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2017-2026</b>
<b>2017:</b> despite its obvious power and impetus, this feels a more harmonious and sleek version, more suave and yet friendly, impossible to dislike.	<b>2017</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2020-2029</b>

### Series M

RRRR

	<b>2006</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2009-2024</b>
	<b>2007</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2010-2020</b>
<b>2009:</b> touch of youthful rawness hiding lovely balance and ripe tannins, generous sweet cherry and rustic spicy fruit, more approachable than 'C' with more leafy and red berry Merlot.	<b>2009</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2012-2022</b>
<b>2012:</b> silky mouthfeel, elegant, subdued	<b>2012</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2014-2025</b>

fruit with creamy, well-handled oak finish.

<b>2014:</b> suggesting mellow lush bramble fruit, but dry and tight presently. Will improve.	<b>2014</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2016-2028</b>
<b>2015:</b> deep ruby purple, hint of wood, structured yet revealing lush, silky layers of plums and cherry, still improving at three years.	<b>2015</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2017-2030</b>
<b>2016:</b> glossy Morello cherry depth, then sour cherry, cranberry and earth notes, dark and taut and needing time to open, firmly wound but classy.	<b>2016</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2019-2030</b>

## Series C

## RRRR

	<b>2006</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>2009-2023</b>
	<b>2007</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2011-2022</b>
<b>2008:</b> at age eleven this shows rich and dusty tannin smoothness, such intensity of deep dark fruits, great balance, mouthfeel and length.	<b>2008</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2010-2024</b>
<b>2009:</b> Sumptuous and silky, but still too young, lots of fleshy, pristine fruit waiting to emerge, should be incredible, just needs to settle.	<b>2009</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2012-2024</b>
<b>2010:</b> apparent change of style, prominent oak and huge coffee notes hide rich fruit and sweet depth. Lovely, despite nose. Long finish.	<b>2010</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2012-2022</b>
<b>2013:</b> inky hue, shy at present, lots of extract but held in an elegant, silky form, layered and lingering.	<b>2013</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2016-2026</b>
<b>2015:</b> so smooth, rich and complex, yet not ready to reveal all its beauty. Deep blue fruits, discreet oak and good length.	<b>2015</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2018-2030</b>
<b>2016:</b> mint and dark fruit nose, vanilla and wood hint, forest blue fruit impact, cerebral and delicious. Needs time to reveal real quality.	<b>2016</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2019-2031</b>
<b>2017:</b> Sumptuous and layered, even in raw youth, with pristine dark fruit, impeccable oak, balance, harmony and length, a superb wine.	<b>2017</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>2019-2032</b>