

ALVI'S DRIFT

# ALBERTUS VILJOEN ICON RANGE BISMARCK 2020

Memorable and complex with a dark, black-cherry colour, this richly textured wine boasts great complexity on the nose, offering intense aromas of plums, red cherry, pepper and liquorice, with delicious hints of violet and mixed spice. Soft, silky tannins hold the fruit to a long-lingering finish that resonates with delectable, aromatic memories of classic spice box. This wine has the potential to mature for at least 8-10 years.

## ON THE VINES

With an ideal Mediterranean microclimate, an abundance of soil diversity and water from the life-giving Breede River, the Alvi's Drift vineyards are ideally positioned for producing remarkable wines of unique character and complexity.

Our 2020 harvest will be remembered for not only yielding a larger-than-usual crop, but for nature's gift of remarkable fruit that reached optimal ripeness. Sufficient cold units were accumulated during winter to break dormancy, rainfall was a little below average and spring brought the favourable conditions which contributed to earlier bud break on our vines. Moderate summer temperatures ensured optimal flavour retention in the grapes, resulting in a truly exceptional vintage.

## IN THE CELLAR

Borrowing from ancient winemaking methods, all varieties in this blend were vinified and barrel-matured separately, with some varieties undergoing whole-bunch fermentation.

After arriving at the winery, most grape varieties were destemmed and cold soaked for 3-4 days, with a portion of the juice drawn off to maximise skin contact and colour extraction during fermentation. For this wine, fermentation was completed in barrels, followed by malolactic fermentation. After fermentation, the wine was matured in French and American oak barrels for 12 months, then blended before bottling.

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## CULTIVAR INFORMATION

Shiraz 41% | Cabernet 21% | Pinotage 15% | Grenache 9% |  
Petit Verdot 6% | Alicante Bouschet 4% | Viognier 4%

## ANALYSIS

Alcohol:	13.4%
Residual Sugar:	4.6 g/l
Acidity:	5.7 g/l
pH:	3.4

## PAIRING SUGGESTION

Enjoy this wine with a hearty oxtail stew, venison pie or with grilled peri-peri chicken.

## HERITAGE

In 1928, our family patriarch, Albertus Viljoen Van Der Merwe – "Alvi" to his friends – established a farm south of the town of Worcester, South Africa. Alvi's son, Bertie, started wine production on the family farm and today the award-winning Alvi's Drift wines are created by winemaker Alvi Van Der Merwe, Oupa Alvi's grandson and namesake.

This wine takes its name from Bismarck, our farm's beloved Great Dane and self-appointed custodian of the cellar. A friendly welcoming party to anyone visiting the farm, Bismarck commanded respect as the undisputed alpha male and leader of the pack. With this wine, we honour his legacy.

Our Albertus Viljoen Icon range showcases the best of our harvest, full-bodied, barrel-fermented wines of outstanding character and complexity.