

Vilafonte Series C

THE FACTS

COUNTRY: South Africa

REGION: Western Cape

CEPAGE: 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 10% Malbec, 8% Cabernet Franc

WINEMAKING: Fermented in oak and steel, aged 22 months in French oak

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME: 14.5%

AGING: Aged 22 mnths in 68% new & 32% seasoned French oak barriques

THE STORY

Vilafonté, in South Africa's Paarl-Simonsberg region, was founded in 1996 by Michael Ratcliffe, Zema Long, and Phil Freese. Named after its ancient "vilafontes" soils (750,000–1.5 million years old), the winery produces Bordeaux blends that are globally acclaimed. Winemakers Chris des Vries and Arlene Mains lead the creation of wines celebrated for elegance, complexity, and longevity.

BIOGRAPHY: Arlene Mains, Head Winemaker of Seriously Old Dirt, shifted from Microbiology to Viticulture at Stellenbosch University. With an MSc in Wine Biotechnology and experience at Opus One and Mouton Rothschild, she oversees Vilafonté's vineyard and cellar. Her 2019 discovery of old Cabernet vines enhanced the wine's depth. Arlene blends kindness, innovation, and joy in her winemaking.

THE ADJECTIVES

OVERALL: Powerful and polished with rich fruit, elegance, and harmony

AROMAS / FLAVORS: Black currant, licorice, juniper berry, cedar, blue/black fruits

MOUThFEEL: Broad & layered w/ ripe tannins, weight, & satin texture

THE SELLING POINTS

Flagship Bordeaux blend w/ structure, depth, & aging potent

AWARDS: 96pts Tim Atkin, 94pts Wine Spectator

PAIRINGS: Pair with ribeye, lamb shank, black garlic, or truffle mushroom risotto

