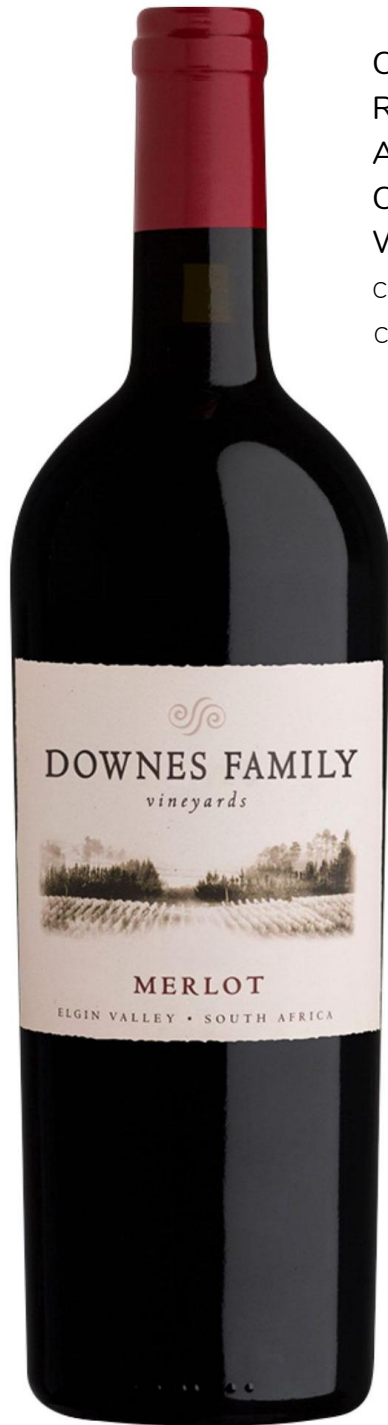


Downes Family Merlot



THE FACTS

COUNTRY: South Africa

REGION: Western Cape

APPELLATION: Elgin

CEPAGE: 100% Merlot

WINEMAKING: Grapes are hand-sorted before cold 3-6 day cold maceration. The 5-way clonal ferment is inoculated with a commercial yeast.

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME: 14.0%

AGING: 9 months in 4-5yr old French barriques.

THE STORY

Downes Family Vineyards is situated in the Elgin Valley within the Kogelberg Biosphere with mountains to the west and the Palmiet River to the east. The Elgin Valley which has long been regarded as the apple and pear centre of South Africa, now has some of the country's most highly regarded winemakers establishing vineyards in the area, testament to its obvious winemaking potential. The vineyards benefit from the high altitude cool temperatures, as well as an abundant rainfall throughout the year and the prevailing cold summer wind, known as the "Black South-Easter" blowing in from the ocean. Viticulture practices and canopy management which enhance longer ripening periods capture in the wines, the broad spectrum of flavours created in the cool climate of our unique terroir!

THE SELLING POINTS

AWARDS: 90pts Wine Advocate

SUSTAINABILITY: Vegan, Sustainable In Practice

