

## EXCELSIOR Cabernet Sauvignon 2018



Varietal Blend	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Location	South Africa
Appellation	Robertson
Alcohol Content	14.5%
TA	5.6 g/l
pH	3.55
RS	3.1 g/l

### Accolades

"Best Buy" *Wine & Spirits*,  
"Best Buy" *Wine Enthusiast*

### Certifications

Integrated Production of Wines  
(IPW) Certified

### Other

Vegan Friendly

### VINEYARDS:

Cabernet Sauvignon is the most planted variety on Excelsior, comprising 43% of all plantings. The vines range in age from 7 to 22 years. The soil is mainly limestone based, with a small portion coming from shale. The aim is to make wine that shows lots of fruit flavor and soft tannins while maintaining good structure. This is achieved via very strict canopy management to prevent shaded fruit and harvesting at optimal ripeness.

### VINTAGE:

The 2018 vintage was warm with a smaller, but very promising harvest, despite frost damage in some areas. Temperatures throughout the growing season were warm during the day but cooler than usual at night, allowing for slow, even development. Low rainfall and high daytime temperatures—without any heatwaves—led to a very healthy crop of outstanding quality. Berries were smaller than normal due to the drought, leading to good concentration and excellent color in the wines.

### VINIFICATION AND MATURATION:

The grapes are harvested by hand for greater quality control. The bunches were immediately de-stemmed but not crushed. Fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks for a period of seven days at temperatures of 82 - 90°F. Aerated racking was carried out twice daily to ensure a clean ferment and soft tannins. The grapes were gently pressed in a bladder press, after which malolactic fermentation was completed in tank. 40% of the wine was aged in a mixture of French and American oak for a period of nine months, with the balance aged in tank. Each parcel was vinified and aged separately and then combined at blending.

### TASTING NOTES:

This delicious, crowd pleasing Cabernet – consistently named a Wine Enthusiast “Best Buy” – delivers serious bang for the buck! It exhibits ripe blackcurrant and dried herb notes on the nose, which are backed up with some spicy oak nuances. The palate is smooth and soft, with pretty ripe tannins and a long finish.

