



de Trafford

From Architect to Wine Grower

de Trafford farm is a small property of 5 ha focusing on Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Shiraz. The farm, beautiful Mont Fleur, is situated 380 m up against the Helderberg Mountain, south of Stellenbosch.

David Trafford, owner & winemaker, qualified as an Architect from the University of Cape Town in 1988 and worked as a full time Architect until 1994. David traded architecture for Wine & Wife by leaving work and marrying Rita, qualified chef & aspiring artist. Living in the middle of the vineyard and close to the winery, they watch over all aspects of the business.

In 1991 quota restrictions were lifted. The winery was registered in time for the 1992 harvest and a new vineyard was planted in 1994 and 1995. Varieties, clones, rootstocks, vine densities and trellis systems were carefully chosen to suit the subtle variations in soil and microclimate. The aim is to produce high quality red wines which convey the personality and uniqueness of this mountain site to the full.

The wine-making philosophy focuses on making natural wines with a sense of vintage and balance. The critical decision of when to harvest is determined by tasting the fruits for optimum ripeness, chemical results will take second place—trusting empirical knowledge and first-hand experience are the most determining factor for decision making. Harvest is done by hand, a traditional basket press is used, fermentation is done using indigenous yeast that is naturally present on the skin of the grapes, minimum handling and gravity is used to transfer the wine in and out of the barrels, there are no additives and no filtration is done before bottling.

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