

Le Riche

STELLENBOSCH | SOUTH AFRICA

ABOUT US

Based along the lower foothills of the Helderberg mountains in Stellenbosch, Le Riche is regarded as one of the leading producers of ultra-premium Cabernet Sauvignon. Thanks to this noble grape's thoroughbred genetics and impressive adaptability across varying terroir, the Le Riche family have dedicated their winemaking pursuit to crafting quality-focused Cabernet Sauvignon wines that are detailed in approach and reflective of the Stellenbosch region.

The Le Riche winemaking style is traditionally simplistic yet innovative, orientated around crafting Cabernet Sauvignon that is elegant, complex, and has excellent maturation potential. For this reason, we exclusively source only the highest-quality fruit from established grape growers.

Our vision is to craft the ultimate expression of Cabernet Sauvignon from the Stellenbosch Winelands of South Africa.

OUR HERITAGE AND PHILOSOPHY

Le Riche was established by owner and Cape Winemakers Guild Founder, Etienne le Riche. His first vintage in 1997 was produced in a year marked as challenging and wet. The Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded an impressive Double Gold Veritas Award and 5-Star Platter rating, thus firmly establishing the Le Riche name on the Cape winemaking landscape. From there the winery went from strength to strength. Today his son, Christo, has taken over the reins, continuing the legacy of producing outstanding award-winning Cabernet.

Quality winemaking starts in the vineyard, which has been their winemaking philosophy over the years. By approaching each block individually, great effort and knowledge apply to specifics, such as soil health, canopy management, vineyard row selection, pruning and the timing of harvest.

Once the grapes enter the Le Riche cellar, our motivation continues to be how best to express each site. This includes a minimal intervention approach to maintain varietal purity while respecting the environment. During the winemaking process, an integral part is blending, which ensures quality and consistency across our highly focused range. We pride ourselves on blending – whether that entails using different blends of the same grape variety to refine the best expression of the fruit, or blending across different grape varieties to create something completely new.



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OUR VINEYARDS

Stellenbosch provides an ideal landscape for growing grapes, thanks to a unique combination of cooling Atlantic Ocean winds and some of the oldest geological soils in the world. Traditionally, Le Riche works with about 10 - 15 vineyards based in the Stellenbosch wards of Jonkershoek, Simonsberg, Bottelary and the Helderberg Upper and Lower Foothills. Meticulous attention and strategy are placed on identifying specific vines within the vineyard that will provide the ideal fruit needed for every wine in our range.

SUSTAINABLE VITICULTURE

At Le Riche, the health of the vineyards and respecting nature remains key. By pursuing sustainable farming and winemaking, the focus remains on working with varieties that are best suited to the terroir. The Stellenbosch region offers the ideal moderate climate and well-drained soils that the vigorous and demanding grape variety requires. The winemaking team works closely with the trusted grape growers from each farm to ensure there is an ongoing balance in the vineyards. This enables Le Riche to source only the highest-quality fruit – ensuring consistency across vintages.

OUR WINES

The Le Riche portfolio consists of three core wines all made using Cabernet Sauvignon, with each wine receiving equal consideration while showcasing different expressions of the king of grapes. All expressions stay true to our three pillars which are quality, elegance and consistency.

OUR TEAM

Today, Le Riche is managed by four core members, consisting of Cellarmaster Christo le Riche, Cape Wine Master Yvonne le Riche, Commercial Manager Francois le Riche and Assistant Winemaker Mark Daniels. While founder Etienne le Riche is now retired, he still acts in an advisory role, ensuring the winery continues to pursue the finest execution of Cabernet possible.

We welcome you to join us at our cellar.

THE LE RICHE FAMILY



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