

— OUR PHILOSOPHY —

At Longridge, we see the farm as a living organism.

The soil, vines, animals, and people all form part of one balanced whole. Instead of forcing nature, we follow it – guided by the rhythms of the earth, the seasons, and the cycles of the moon and stars.



Soils alive with energy, vines in balance, fruit with vibrancy and clarity.

THE RHYTHM OF THE SEASONS

WINTER – Rest & Renewal

The vines sleep while we prepare the soil. Horn Manure (Prep 500) is buried in the earth to enrich microbial life.

SPRING – Awakening

Budburst begins. Natural teas and sprays protect the vines. Early canopy work is guided by the lunar calendar.

SUMMER – Balance & Vitality

Flowers turn to fruit. Horn Silica (Prep 501) strengthens leaves and helps ripening. Horsetail tea (508) maintains balance.

AUTUMN – Harvest & Celebration

Fruit is picked on “fruit days” when energy is at its peak. Compost enriched with herbs (Preps 502–507) returns nutrients to the soil.

VINEYARD PHILOSOPHY

Biodiversity

Guinea fowl, Nguni cattle, bees, and cover crops form a self-sustaining ecosystem.

No Chemicals

No herbicides, pesticides, or synthetic fertilizers.

The Preparations

Horn manure (500) and horn silica (501) build soil vitality and ripening balance; herbal compost preps (502–507) guide decomposition; horsetail tea (508) balances moisture and disease.

The Calendar

Work is timed to root, leaf, flower, and fruit days, aligning farming with natural cycles.



PREPARATIONS

500 – Horn Manure:

Enriches soil life and root growth.

501 – Horn Silica:

Improves photosynthesis and fruit ripeness.

502–507 – Compost Preps:

Herbal remedies (yarrow, chamomile, nettle, oak bark, dandelion, valerian) guiding decomposition.

508 – Horsetail Tea:

Balances moisture and disease pressure. These are like natural medicines for the vineyard – tiny doses with profound effects.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Fermentation

Only indigenous yeasts, no added enzymes.

Minimal Intervention

No fining or filtration; very low sulphur.

Maturation

Wines age in French & Russian oak.

Style

Wines of elegance, purity, texture, and endurance – revealing the true voice of Stellenbosch’s ridge.



WHY IT MATTERS

For us, biodynamics is not a trend. It is our covenant with the land and with future generations. The result is wines that are more vibrant, balanced, and expressive of place – wines that carry both wisdom and vitality.

DRIEFONTEIN SYRAH 2022



TASTING NOTES

Ripe red and black plum, with dialled down oak, rosemary and lavender aromas, savoury tannins and crunchy bramble and blueberry fruit.

TERROIR

Rooted in the oldest viticulture soil in the world, it is made up of decomposed granite on the lower slopes of the Helderberg Mountain. This vineyard enjoyed the refreshingly cool breezes from False Bay (Atlantic Ocean) during the day and cool night air flowing down the mountain, resulting in even ripening of the berries and good natural acidity. The macro climate is maritime, with cold wet winters and dry, warm summers.

VITICULTURE

The two-hectare single vineyard vines are meticulously cared for by hand to ensure maximum quality. Organic and biodynamic practices are employed, which includes not using any pesticides, herbicides or chemical sprays. In addition, farm produced compost, teas and biodynamic preparations are employed. The fruit was hand-picked in small lug boxes and the crop was reduced to ensure that only the perfect grapes were used for this wine.

VINIFICATION

Biodynamic practices were also followed in the cellar. In the winery, the grapes were sorted twice – firstly as whole bunches and then as berries to ensure that only the best grapes reach the fermentation tank. Aged in seasoned French Oak barrels, this wine will continue to reward if carefully cellared for 5 – 8 years.

Origin Helderberg, Stellenbosch | Winemaker Jasper Raats
Alcohol 14,3% | Residual Sugar 2,7g/l | Total Acidity 5,4g/l | pH 3,56

93 points - Tim Atkin SA Report | 4.5* - Platter's Wine Guide