



Western Cape, South Africa

The Cape wine growing areas, situated in the narrow viticultural zone of the southern hemisphere, mainly have a Mediterranean climate. The mountain slopes and valleys form the ideal habitat for grape growing. Long, sun-drenched summers and mild, wet winters contribute to the ideal conditions for viticulture at the Cape.

The Cape winelands stretch from the rugged mountains and multi-directional slopes of the coastal region to the open plains. South Africa's vineyards are mostly situated in the Western Cape near the coast.

Franschhoek Valley is a broad vineyard-lined valley in the southeast corner of Paarl, in South Africa's Western Cape. This small valley is home to some of South Africa's most famous wine estates and has been producing wine since the 17th Century.

OLD ROAD WINE CO.

ORIGIN Western Cape, South Africa

DESIGNATION 'Grand-Mère' Semillon

ABOUT The Old Road Wine Co. tells the story of special old vines grown in rugged corners of the Franschhoek wine country. The fruit of these old vines, born in 1936, show the grace and tenacity exemplified by a family matriarch or grandmother.

VINEYARD Sourced from a very special, very old bushvine vineyard planted in 1936. It is a high density planting of around 7000 vines per hectare, more than double the average vineyard in SA. It is a south-east facing site, unirrigated and situated over 1,100 ft above sea level. The vines were able to find a perfect balance between growth and yields over the decades resulting in an excellent textured wine. The yields per vine are very low, making for excellent concentration of fruit.

PROCESS Grapes were harvested by hand in two batches to achieve a perfect balance in ripeness. Whole-cluster pressed and settled before being racked to the barrels for natural fermentation. The wine underwent barrel maturation in mostly older French oak barrels to add gentle depth and staying power. Primary lees stirring ensured further complexity and verve. Clay Amphora pots were used in the fermentation and aging for 20% of the wine.

TASTING The wine is elegant and refined, with opulent pear, kumquat and citrus peel flavors, sweet exotic spice and a textured mouth-feel. The flavors evolve and persist from the entry onto the palate, with layers of succulent tropical fruit and candied citrus flavors unfolding. The well-defined fruit is balanced by a mouth watering acidity and a lingering minerality on the finish.