

The name means The Footpath in Dutch, and comes from the name of Dirk Brand's wheat and rooibos tea farm, where the untidy block of old vines is tucked away. This is surely the most isolated old vineyard in the country,

presumably originally planted to supply the farmer and his neighbours. Its 1.4 hectares host varieties established in the Cape since the early days of European settlement: hanepoot planted around 1900, red and white semillon from the early 1920s; palomino from 1978, and chenin blanc planted in 1991 (even the chenin on its own roots, untroubled by phylloxera).

The vineyard's survival without irrigation is also extraordinary, in this hot valley in the north of the huge Swartland region, near the village of Aurora and Elands Bay on the coast. Its precise location has allowed it to survive, with water flowing beneath it from the mountains. No herbicides have been used, and grass and weeds between the vines help dry out the winter-wet soils, while driving the vine roots deeper. It is a special and unique place, producing wines of great character.

'T Voetpad is a field blend of all the varieties apart from the later-ripening hanepoot (which went into the Eselshoek). They are picked and pressed together, and co-ferment in old wooden casks.



Hierdie mooie naam benoem Dirk Brand se koring- en rooibosteelaas waarop 'n redelik ongedissiplineerde wingerdblok in totale afsondering wegkruip. Die 1.4 ha was duidelik aangeplant vir huiswyn en bestaan uit

oorspronklike Kaapse varieteite wat bekend was aan die eerste Europese inwoners aan die Kaap: hanepoot wat in ongeveer 1900 aangeplant is; rooi en wit semillon uit die vroeë twintigerjare; palomino wat in 1978 aangeplant is; en chenin blanc (selfs hierdie chenin is steeds op eie wortels en onaangeraak deur phylloxera) van 1991.

*Dat die wingerd sonder enige besproeiing oorleef het, is geen geringe saak nie. Hierdie vallei is in die noordelike Swartland geleë, naby Aurora en Elandsbaai aan die kus en kan goëd warm raak. Die wingerdblok se ligging was sy redding, want bergwater vloei onder hom deur. Ook hier is onkruidododer nooit gebruik nie en die gras en groeisels tussen die stokke het die nat wintergrond help uitdroog en die stokke aangemoedig om hulle wortels diep te verberg. Hierdie plek is spesiaal en uniek en lewer karaktervolle wyne.*



Die 'T Voetpad is 'n versnit van al hierdie varieteite, buiten die hanepoot, wat later eers ryp word en wat vir Eselshoek gebruik is. Die res van die druiwe is saam gepars en het saam in ou houtvate gegis.

'T V O E T P A D