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NEW RELEASES
2020

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Using this Guide

We are delighted to present the latest releases from South Africa. Given the complexities of this rapidly developing fine wine nation, we've shared detailed notes on each producer, as well as on the various regions. We've also included some broad-brush notes on each vintage and a map of the regions.

@ Instagram

Our growers are generous with their social media presences, so we encourage you to follow them, and to see behind the scenes. We'd like to help you discover their accounts by indicating their handle, where applicable, next to this symbol.

[@ @laywheeler]

Buyer's Note

South Africa comes of age

My first trip to South Africa was in June 2016.

Just four years on, I'm astonished at how much the wine scene has changed, with exciting new developments seemingly every month, and certainly every vintage.

It's a very special generation of winemakers in South Africa, who have elevated the country's wine from a perception of being simply a 'value pick', to a bona fide 'fine wine region.'

So what makes this cohort so special? One thing is their extraordinary desire to learn.

In his inimitable way, Eben Sadie explains, "if you want to be good at tennis, you need to practise with good players". And that's exactly what these South Africans have done. Almost without exception they've travelled abroad, from California to Australia, Burgundy to Bordeaux, Germany to Spain. They've learnt from the world's greatest producers, and have brought that knowledge home. Now, they learn from each other, sharing cellars and bottles, stories and tasting groups.

When you understand this curiosity, desire, and generosity, and combine it with South Africa's incredible terroirs, it becomes easier to appreciate the region's success.

In 2016, I left South Africa feeling like it was the most exciting place on the planet to be making wine. Four years on, my opinion hasn't changed at all.



Young region or old region? Young vines or old vines?

In global wine terms, South Africa can be hard to place. While the Dutch were still draining Bordeaux's Médoc, wine was being produced in both Constantia and Stellenbosch. In the nineteenth century, a South African wine, Vin de Constance, was name-dropped by Jane Austen, Charles Baudelaire and Charles Dickens.

Yet of the 38 producers in our range this year, just five were in existence in 1994 at the election of Nelson Mandela, and 17 have been founded in the last ten years. These are hardly statistics you'd expect of an 'old region'.

With this dichotomy, South Africa faces one of its greatest marketing challenges: how to balance its rich history with under thirty years of 'modern', post-apartheid, winemaking experience. Where can it position itself: is it a young upstart, or a historic region? Is its future with the classics, or with new, avant garde winemaking?



In South Africa much of the focus has been on old vines. That's understandable. Some of the most thrilling bottles I've tried have come from the historic vineyards of the Cape, crafted by winemakers like Eben Sadie, Chris Alheit, Adi Badenhorst, John Seccombe. Rosa Kruger and others have done remarkable work with the Old Vine Project to protect South Africa's viticultural heritage, ensuring that the finest venerable plots are saved.

However, newer plantings are also noteworthy. For example, the oldest vines used for the 2018 Porseleinberg - awarded 100 points by Tim Atkin MW - were planted in 2005. In the Hemel-en-Aarde, you'd be hard pressed to find any vines of more than 20 years of age, with both Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays here a match for many of the world's greatest.

What's changing?

What has become increasingly evident is the South Africans' commitment to sustainability. Not only in environmental terms, but also in a business sense.

As Chris Mullineux explains, "there is not a great wine in the world that doesn't start in the vineyards". For many of this new wave of winemakers, this was always the biggest challenge: how to guarantee the quality of their supply, when they didn't own the vineyards.

For some, like Lukas van Loggerenberg, the answer has always been to work only with farmers that he trusts completely, leaving them to do their work. But others want more control. Winemakers like Duncan Savage and Pieter Walsler are spending more and more time in the vineyards themselves: although they don't own the vines, they're controlling the way they're farmed. And some, like Chris Alheit, have now managed to purchase their own properties, allowing them to control every aspect of the grape growing.

The more South African winemakers can guarantee the quality of the grapes, the higher their wines soar.

That's what makes the current moment for South African wine more exciting for me than ever before. It's blossoming into a fully-fledged fine wine region in its own right, meaning that we should treat it as such. These wines and producers warrant buying

year in, year out, as we would with good Burgundy, and deserve time in the cellar, as we would treat good Bordeaux.

In this context, South Africa offers comfortably, in my opinion, the best value of any fine wine region in the world. This is surely a golden age for those of us passionate about these wines: still accessible (but just), with attractive quality to price ratios, even at the highest level.

Covid in this country

No wine producing region has been untouched by Covid-19. But it's fair to say that few, if any, have been as seriously affected as the Cape. On 23rd March, President Ramaphosa brought in one of most punitive lockdowns in the world, initially banning all wine exports as well as domestic wine sales. While the former was quickly rescinded, the latter remained in place until the end of April, and was brought back in on the 12th July for another month.

In a world where the domestic market and cellar door sales are critical to the success, and indeed survival, of many wineries, this was a crippling blow. Some 300,000 people are directly or indirectly employed by the South African wine industry, and the current situation put their livelihoods at risk.

I'm pleased to say that all the winemakers we work with have so far managed to weather the storm. But clearly, as the economic results of the pandemic are felt, times are tough.

We're supporting them however we can, by picking their wines up earlier (and paying them sooner), or by taking increased allocations. Regardless, there's one way we can all help: by drinking more South African wine. With such delicious wines, it's not too much of a cross to bear.

The South African wine scene moves fast. I urge you to keep discovering it: time and time again, like me, you'll be left speechless - and wishing you'd bought more.

Best wishes,



Robbie Toothill
October 2020



The vintages

In a region as diverse as the Western Cape, it's hard to make generalisations about a vintage... Here's a rough, but by no means comprehensive, guide.

2019

The hardest to define yet. Very varied from region to region, with some complaining of rain and others of drought. Remarkably in 2019 many young winemakers have made their best wines yet. In general, I'm thrilled at the quality of wines that I've tasted - but in a vintage like 2019, it reminds me why we pick our winemakers so carefully.

2018

A drought vintage, with small quantities produced. Yet many of the wines seem to defy the lack of water, with impressive freshness, and wonderful textures. A vintage that will provide many surprises over the years.

2017

A vintage of astonishing quality, with superb whites and reds. The wines combine depth of flavour and amazing, nervy acidity.

2016

Very hot, and an early harvest; making balanced wines took a lot of skill. Some are drinking beautifully early, others will need a while longer.

2015

A warm and structured vintage. These will need time to come around, but will be seen as true greats. Slightly more of a red than a white vintage.

2014

Cool and wet, there are some brilliant whites, in particular.

Wine Regions of South Africa



The Classics

Constantia, Stellenbosch, Franschhoek

The classics are classics for a reason. These regions saw the development of wine in the Cape from the seventeenth century, and remain picture perfect, each in their own way.

With this history, these areas have been slower to adapt than some of the areas more on the periphery of the South African wine scene. With a reputation to uphold, perhaps there's been less appetite for experimentation here.

That said, there are still producers here pushing the boundaries, making better and better wines. Look out for Sauvignons from Constantia, for wines from the regions like Polkadraai in Stellenbosch, or for producers like Boekenhoutskloof in Franschhoek. Even when you think you know the classics, there's always something new to discover.

Constantia

Just a short drive from the centre of Cape Town, Constantia is the cradle of South African winemaking. Planted in the late 17th century, in the late 18th and 19th centuries it was the sweet wine of Constance that put the region on the global wine map.



While Vin de Constance remains key, the more I taste, the more I'm convinced that the Sauvignon Blancs from this corner of the Cape can rival any from around the world. With the ocean on both sides of the peninsula, and facing directly at False Bay, it's a cool region, where steep vineyards on granite and decomposed sandstone suit Sauvignon Blanc perfectly.

Stellenbosch

The vineyards of Stellenbosch are, for many, the quintessential idea of winemaking in the Cape. It's here that you'll find the Dutch-gabled houses and rows of vineyards, overlooked by scraggy peaks. And Stellenbosch's influence stretches far: it's home to Stellenbosch University and Elsenberg Agricultural Training College, the alma maters of almost every Cape winemaker.

Yet as a winemaking area, it's something of a misnomer. To think of Stellenbosch as one single area, with uniform characteristics would be a mistake. Like Bordeaux should be seen not as a whole, but rather as a selection of communes - Pauillac, Margaux, St-Estèphe, and so on - so Stellenbosch should be broken down. Currently there are seven 'wards' designated, while other areas should perhaps be added to the list.

Simonsberg-Stellenbosch

This is the largest of Stellenbosch's wards, the most northerly, and was the first to be designated. It takes its name from the Simonsberg mountain, that forms the border between Stellenbosch and Paarl, and is home to some of the Cape's most historic estates, such as Kanonkop. Here, the soils are mainly decomposed sandstone, and are perfectly suited for Cabernet Sauvignon.

Polkadraai

Of all the areas of Stellenbosch, it's Polkadraai that is creating the biggest buzz right now. Johan Reyneke calls it, "one of the most important areas for SA going forward", and it certainly has the perfect combination of fantastic terroir and exciting winemakers.

Johan points to the altitude of the region: 200 - 300 metres, rather than the 100 - 200 metres that's more common in Stellenbosch, together with the granite soils, that gives real structure on the reds and plenty of minerality on the whites. In addition to the altitude, the south-facing slopes here get blustered with sea breezes from False Bay from mid-morning in the summer, moderating temperatures. Some of South Africa's most exciting Syrahs come from this region, while there are also brilliant expressions of Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc.

Helderberg

Meaning clear mountain in Afrikaans, the Helderberg takes its name from the way the evening light hits the western side of the mountain. Although not strictly speaking a ward, the wines from the Helderberg can easily be grouped together, most of all thanks to the strong oceanic influence here. It's a blend of soils, from very sandy, with decomposed granite and clay, but what sticks out are the cool temperatures coming from the proximity to False Bay - the average temperature can be up to 6°C cooler than other parts of Stellenbosch. That gives the wines a coolness and crunchiness that's not found elsewhere.

Franschhoek

For many tourists, Franschhoek is the key experience of winemaking in South Africa, with its wine tram, bijoux hotels, and fine restaurants. Yet with a huge variety of soil types and depth, aspects, and even altitudes, it's incredibly difficult to attribute a specific style or grape variety to Franschhoek. That's not to say the region is without merit: there are some remarkable parcels of old vines here, such as the 1936-planted La Colline Sémillon vineyard, or the 1932-planted Lötter Cinsault vineyard, while Boekenhoutskloof would surely be on anyone's list of the greatest estates in South Africa right now. But it's an area that requires careful selection.

Up the Wild West Coast

Darling, Voor Paardeberg, Swartland, Olifants Rivier

With incredible oysters, amazing surfing, and a real sense of wilderness, South Africa's west coast is a very special place. While most of the vineyards here are well inland, the ocean still exerts a considerable influence, moderating temperatures and ensuring conditions are perfect for grapes to ripen fully, but not overly.

From these regions, where the wild Atlantic Ocean meets the African continent, come some of the new world's most trailblazing, exciting, sought after bottlings.

Ever since attention was first turned this way at the beginning of the 2000s, focus up the west coast has been on parcels of neglected old vines: coaxing them back to life to craft thrilling Chenin Blancs, Tinta Baroccas, Semillons, and other even less well-known varieties. But now, as the South African wine scene moves forward, many of the key visionaries here are planting their own vineyards, securing the future of the region, and improving quality yet further.

Swartland

Het Zwarte Land, or the Black Country, takes its name not from the colour of the soils, but rather because of the dominant renosterbos plants, which go very dark after the rains.

Nowhere demonstrates South Africa's changing wine scene better than the Swartland. Long celebrated for its vast wheat fields - this is the breadbasket of the Cape - what vines were planted were the preserve of huge cooperative cellars.

Yet in 1998 a new winery started in the Swartland, Spice Route. The winemaker here was a young man: Eben Sadie. Born and raised in the Swartland, Eben felt drawn to the parcels of old vines that still existed here, and alongside Rosa Kruger, the founder of South Africa's old vine project, they sought out the finest gnarled bush vines.

Where Sadie led, others followed, and what resulted was dubbed the Swartland revolution. Winemakers like Adi Badenhorst, Chris and Andrea Mullineux, and Callie Louw joined Eben in putting the region on the map as arguably the Cape's most dynamic place to be. And now, with other, younger winemakers joining the fold, it remains a truly exciting time for the Swatland.

The Swartland is a story of mountains, denoted by the suffix -berg in Afrikaans. These each bring their own soils, and their own characteristics to the wines.

Paardeberg

No name looms larger in the Swartland than the Paardeberg. The mountain's lower slopes are called home by many of the Swartland's most impressive names - Eben Sadie, Adi Badenhorst,

David & Nadia Sadie, now Chris Alheit - as well as some of the Cape's finest historic vineyards. It's decomposed granite soils here, with small plots of dry-farmed bush vines dotted across the landscape. The Voor Paardeberg shares the same granitic soils, but sits on the other, Darling side of the mountain, with very different exposures, and a slightly different climate.

Kasteelberg

In the heart of the Swartland is the quaint town of Riebeeck Kasteel, with its remarkable colonial-era hotel, the Royal Hotel. The mountain that looms over the town is the Kasteelberg, and is home, among other properties, to the Mullineux's Roundstone farm. Here, rather than the granite of the Paardeberg, the soils are predominantly shale, and give a floral elegance to the wines.

Malmesbury Hills

The low-lying hills around the town of Malmesbury are dominated by the local Koffieklip soils. Literally meaning coffee stone, coming from their colour, these iron-rich soils give broadness and depth to the wines that come from them.

Porseleinberg

Marc Kent of Boekenhoutskloof got in on the act in 2009, buying the entire Porseleinberg - literally the Porcelain mountain - and embarking on a huge plantation program, overseen by Callie Louw, arguably the Cape's most talented farmer. This schist-covered mountain is now the source of much of the fruit for the famed Boekenhoutskloof Syrah, as well as the stunning mono-varietal Syrah that takes the name of the mountain.

Olifants Rivier

Taking its name from the river that winds to the sea from mountains deep inland, and harking back to a time when Elephants roamed this land, this enormous region is often overlooked. Yet it's the source of a few of South Africa's most exciting wines.

None of our winemakers are based here: rather, they all make the journey north in search of old vines and spectacular terroirs. The journeys are worth it: this distant land is truly a land of riches.

Skurfberg

The scruffy outcrop of the Skurfberg is fast becoming a mecca for lovers of South Africa's new wave. A three hour drive from Cape Town, for years the grapes produced here went to a huge co-op, while the region was more celebrated for the quality of its rooibos tea.

But there's something special about the red sands of the Skurfberg. With vineyards of over 500m above sea-level, and just a couple of dozen kilometres from the ocean, the vineyard benefits from a big shift in temperature between day and night.

The three wine farms here, Trekpoort, Arbeidsend, and Oudam, provide old vine Chenin Blanc grapes to Eben Sadie, Ginny Povall and Chris Alheit among others, while from 2019 John Seccombe is making a Sauvignon Blanc from the mountain. In order to harvest, he leaves his home at midnight, arriving in the vines around 5am. This level of commitment shows just how highly prized the grapes of this magic mountain are.

Piekenierskloof

In the Citrusdal mountains, the Piekenierskloof plateau is fast gaining a reputation for some of the finest Grenache in South Africa - it's home to Eben Sadie's Soldaat and Duncan Savage's Thief in the Night - as well as some impressive Chenin Blancs from the bush vines planted in sandstone and shale soils.

It's altitude that's key here - over 750 metres above sea level. And that leads to incredibly cool nights, allowing the grapes to ripen slowly and evenly. The wines from here are often some of the most elegant of the entire west coast.

Apples and Whales

Elgin, Botrivier, Hemel-en-Aarde, Greyton, Malgas

As you leave Cape Town, driving east alongside the N2 towards the Garden Route, you cross over Sir Lowry's Pass, leaving the Cape Flats behind, and entering a far more verdant land. This is Elgin, a land of apples. At Botrivier - home to impressive producers in its own right, including Peter-Allan Finlayson's Gabrielskloof - you'll pass the turn off for Hermanus, home to the best land-based whale watching in the world.

These are brave new frontiers for South African wine: Elgin was first planted with a few vines in the 1980s, Hemel-en-Aarde, too. Further down the N2 Greyton is home to just one producer, the irrepressible Sam O'Keefe at Lismore, while even deeper into the unknown Malgas is reserved for David Trafford's Sijnn wines, planted in the early 2000s. They are wineries on the edge, pushing boundaries.

Elgin

Separated from Stellenbosch by the Hottentots-Holland mountain range, Elgin is a cool region where wine was, until the 1980s, a real afterthought. This is really apple country, producing some 60% of South Africa's apple crop. This is a huge threat to viticulture in the area: vineyards are always at risk of being pulled out for the far more profitable orchards.

Elgin receives plenty of rainfall - indeed, it was Elgin's dams that provided the water to alleviate Cape Town's crippling water shortage in February 2018 - and with elevation of generally 200 - 300 metres and proximity to the ocean, the wines produced here tend to have plenty of acidity and drive. Richard Kershaw MW is a real cheerleader for the area, and his wines - Syrah, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir - are, in my opinion, some of the finest cool climate wines made not only in South Africa, but in the New World in general.



Hemel-en-Aarde

Hemel-en-Aarde means heaven on earth in Dutch, and driving up from the ocean through this fertile valley, it's easy to see why the original Dutch settlers saw fit to give it such a saintly title.

While the history of this corner of the Cape is ancient, winemaking here is a new development. Tim Hamilton Russell purchased his property at the bottom of the valley in 1975, making the first wines in 1981. He saw the potential of this cool, wet region for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay: the subsequent forty years have borne out his hypothesis.

Of our producers in the valley alongside Hamilton Russell, Newton Johnson was founded in 1999, Restless River in 2004, and Storm Wines in 2012. In this context, the quality of these wines is all the more remarkable: the best are Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays to go toe-to-toe with Burgundy's finest, with impeccable sense of place, and remarkable balance.

Since 2009 the Hemel-en-Aarde has been divided into separate wards, organised as you move up the valley: Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, the Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley and the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge.

The former and the latter both have considerable clay in the soils, but differ in their distance from the ocean (the former is much closer) and their elevation (the latter is much higher). In the middle, however, the soils are different: the Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley sees much more granite in the soil. And these differences result in a huge range of styles of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, even in a relatively small geographical area.

And while the focus in the Hemel-en-Aarde is undoubtedly these two Burgundian varieties, don't miss other, more peculiar wines: not least Restless River's remarkable Cabernet Sauvignon.



A.A. Badenhorst Family Wines

Adi Badenhorst

@aabadenhorst

There are few people with more on their plate than Adi Badenhorst. Owner of this impressive winery in the heart of the Swartland, he also makes Caperitif, a South African Vermouth, and has branched out into mezcal and even tonic water. Wine was his first love, and remains his focus, aided by super-talented winemaker Hanneke Krüger.

Adi grew up around wine in Constantia: his grandfather was manager of Groot Constantia for 47 years, and Adi made his first wine at Buitenverwachting at the age of 13. He studied winemaking at Elsenburg, and then did vintages at Château Angéus in Bordeaux and Alain Graillot in the Rhône, among others. Finally, he ended up as head winemaker at Rustenberg in Stellenbosch for nine years.

But in 2008 he convinced his cousin, Hein, to help him buy a 60 hectare estate on the Swartland's Paardeberg, called Kalmoesfontein. Here, from gnarled old bush vines, and in a historic cellar that hadn't been used since the 1930s, he creates some of South Africa's most soulful wines.

The key wines are the **Family White Blend** and the **Family Red Blend**. The Family White is a blend of Chenin Blanc alongside Grenache Blanc, Verdelho, Roussanne, Palomino and Semillon. It shows the classic tautness of the Paardeberg's granite soils, but with a few years in bottle, it becomes waxy and honeyed but yet still savoury. The red is predominantly Shiraz, with Grenache, Tinta Barocca, and Cinsault. It's a wine for Braais and rich stews, with an impressive tannic backbone. Adi also makes a handful of single vineyard wines, produced in miniscule quantities.

The **Golden Slopes Chenin Blanc** vineyard is at the very entrance of the Kalmoesfontein estate, with vines planted in 1968. It takes its name from the large yellow granite blocks in the vineyards, and is a taut, mineral expression of Chenin Blanc. The **Klipkop Chenin Blanc**, meanwhile, is right next door. Planted two years earlier, in 1966, it's a richer, more fruit forward expression of Chenin: this pair are well worth tasting next to one another.

Just twelve long rows make up the **Raaigras Grenache** vineyard. Planted in 1952, it's the oldest Grenache vineyard in the Cape, and faces south east, allowing the longest ripening time possible. Adi jokes that its name rhymes with Rayas, but this is a serious Grenache in its own right.

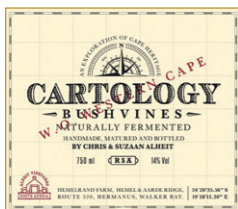
The **Ramnasgras Cinsault** is as complex an expression as you'll find of Cinsault, also known as Hermitage in South Africa, and the country's workhorse red grape. It comes from a vineyard planted in 1966, and is ageworthy, mineral, and stunningly long.

As well as the current releases, we've picked up a few older (and rare) magnums, direct from the estate, including a mixed case of the 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 Family Red.

	🍷 Bottle	🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2018 Family White, Swartland	£19 per btl	£114 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Golden Slopes Chenin Blanc	£27.50 per btl	£165 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Klipkop Chenin Blanc	£27.50 per btl	£165 per 6	2021 - 2030
2018 Family Red, Swartland	£19 per btl	£114 per 6	2022 - 2035
2019 Ramnasgras Cinsault, Swartland	£20 per btl	£120 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Raaigras Grenache, Swartland	£27.50 per btl	£165 per 6	2022 - 2035
2012 Raaigras Grenache, Swartland	£57 per mag	£228 per 4	2020 - 2025
2012 Ramnasgras Cinsault, Swartland	£57 per mag	£228 per 4	2020 - 2025
2016 Raaigras Grenache, Swartland	£57 per mag	£228 per 4	2020 - 2030
2016 Ramnasgras Cinsault, Swartland	£57 per mag	£228 per 4	2020 - 2030
Family Red Magnum Vertical Cases	£50 per mag	£200 per 4	-



The Producers



Alheit Vineyards Chris & Suzaan Alheit

@chrisalheit

No producer epitomises South Africa's rise from upstart to serious fine wine region better than Alheit Vineyards. Chris and Suzaan's first vintage was in 2011, after they'd returned from travelling around the world making wine.

They started small: just 22 barrels of one wine in 2011, sourced from vineyards around the Cape, found with the help of Rosa Kruger. And they've been able to build up the estate, to a point where their supply is constant, and they're able to have ever more control in the vineyards.

In 2019 they were able to purchase the Nieuwedam farm on the Paardeberg, which was already a source of grapes for the winery. This is the ultimate expression of their goal: to buy from fewer sources, but to control the farming of the vineyards, and to therefore improve quality. Tasting the latest releases from the estate, the wines go from strength to strength.

Cartology is the backbone of the estate, and is, in Chris's words, "a vinous exploration of Cape heritage." It comes from dry farmed bush vines, with a minimum of thirty years old, and most of forty to fifty years old, from around the Cape: from the Skurfberg, Piekenierskloof, Paardeberg, Bottelary, False Bay and Tygerberg, while in 2019 the 10% Semillon component comes from the 1936-planted La Colline vineyard in Franschhoek.

A new name, but not a new wine, for 2019, is the **Broom Ridge**. It was formerly known as Fire by Night, but comes from the farm that Chris and Suzaan bought in 2019, so Chris wanted a new name to tie the wine to that place. It's a blend of a few different vineyards, planted between 1972 and 1985 on various slopes, and is an incredibly taut, focussed expression of Chenin Blanc.

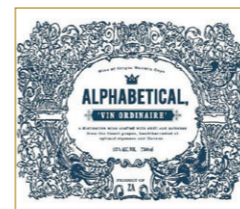
Nautical Dawn comes from a Stellenbosch vineyard, facing east and in sight of the ocean, planted in 1978. Here, the shallow granite soil warms fast, and the resulting wine has a breadth, volume, and ripeness that's not found in Chris' other wines.

And then, from the Skurfberg, come **Huilkrans** and **Magnetic North**. From the prized red sandy soils over red clay of this mythical region, these are two spectacular wines. The former comes from vines planted between 1974 and 1989 on a gentle southern slope at 450m above sea level, and has tons of bitter citrus and an apricot kernel character. The latter comes from a high mountainous ridge at 520m elevation, with two parcels quite close together on a gentle south-east facing slope. One was planted in 1984, the other in 1981, and the wine is taut and incredibly explosive: a legend in the making. Sadly, yields for both are pitiful: just 0.6hl/ha of the former, and 1.5hl/ha. And even more sadly, the Huilkrans vineyard is suffering: there is none in 2020.

Rather different is the **Hemelrand Vine Garden**, a blend, in 2019, of 42% Roussanne, 22% Chardonnay, 16% Chenin, 16% Verdelho, and 4% Muscat, from a vineyard planted in 2010 on the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, on the same farm where you'll find Chris's cellar. The farming here is incredibly precise - Chris can talk for hours just about the cover crops - and the wine gets better and better every year.

Finally, in 2019 is a one-off: just 5,000 half bottles of a straw wine: **Lost & Found**. It comes from a Hanepoot (Muscat of Alexandria) vineyard that was referred to as productive in 1900, but which was likely planted in the 1880s. 450+g/l of residual sugar, 7% alcohol, and spectacular acidity make an explosive wine that will last forever, if you can let it. This really is a treat.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Hemelrand Vine Garden, Western Cape	£18 per btl	£108 per 6	2021 - 2029
2019 Cartology Bush Vines, Western Cape	£21.50 per btl	£129 per 6	2022 - 2032
2019 Magnetic North, Western Cape	£46 per btl	£276 per 6	2023 - 2035
2019 Nautical Dawn Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch	£24.50 per btl	£147 per 6	2023 - 2035
2019 Broom Ridge Chenin Blanc, Paardeberg	£31 per btl	£186 per 6	2023 - 2035
2019 Huilkrans Chenin Blanc, Skurfberg	£46 per btl	£276 per 6	2023 - 2035
2019 Lost & Found Straw Wine	£50 per half	£150 per 3	2020 - 2035



Alphabetical David Cope

@alphabetical_za

David Cope is a busy man. He runs Publik, Cape Town's coolest wine bar, as well as having a successful distribution arm selling some of the Cape's best wines from many of the same dynamic, young growers that we work with.

And he also makes wine. But it wasn't always this way. His background is in wine marketing, and he lived the corporate life in New York for a few years, before making his way back to the Cape in the late 2000s, and wanted to get his hands dirty. He made a couple of vintages from Swartland fruit in 2008 and 2009, but these proved too expensive, and he made no money.

But things got a little more serious in 2011, with the first vintage of **Alphabetical Red Vin Ordinaire**. It contained thirteen grape varieties from four different growers: a friend commented that it had everything from A-Z, and the name stuck.

For the first few years he sold the production out of the boot of his car, but started exporting a few bottles in 2015. David's looking to make the best value for money wine he can, in an easy drinking style: something that he does with aplomb. Working out of Glenelly's cellar in Stellenbosch since 2016, and with the help of the winemaker there, Luke, it's now a Cabernet Franc-led blend, with the fruit mainly from the Glenelly farm itself, and it's consistently delicious.

In 2017 he added the **Alphabetical White** to the range. But not wanting to replicate what others were doing, this is predominantly Roussanne, with a drop Chardonnay from the farm. It's crisp, textured, and easy to enjoy.

And now David has another project, looking to again get his hands dirty. The **Full Moon White** is a field blend from a single vineyard on the Swartland's Uityk farm, a farm where plenty of others source grapes. Just a handful of bottles are made of this blend of Chenin, Colombard, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Chardonnay, from a 44 year old vineyard.

And from Darling he makes a couple of barrels of foot-pressed **Full Moon Grenache**. This is definitely on the elegant side of this grape variety, at between 12.5% and 13% alcohol, and with a beautiful floral, delicate character. It's a brilliant Cape Grenache.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Alphabetical White	£7 per btl	£42 per 6	2020 - 2023
2019 Alphabetical Red	£7 per btl	£42 per 6	2020 - 2025
2019 Full Moon Grenache	£16 per btl	£96 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Full Moon White Field Blend	£16 per btl	£96 per 6	2021 - 2026

The Producers



Blank Bottle

Pieter Walser

@blankbottlewinery

Pieter Walser's route to making some of South Africa's most exciting wines is remarkable.

He studied general agriculture at Elsenberg, before taking a year off to surf. He ended up in the UK, where he worked on a rubbish tip, swept floors in a warehouse, and even worked in the BBC drama department. It was a full two years before he got a job in Alsace in a cellar, where he fell in love with wine, and then followed up at Cakebread Cellars in California.

He then studied winemaking at Stellenbosch at the age of 25. In his third year, with his last money, he bought and sold three cases of unlabelled bottles, and was then able to sell 4,500 bottles in just six weeks. In his fourth year he started his own winery, making a few bottles from a garage in Somerset West.

Pieter then spent two and a half years buying barrels of wine and bottling them, and became increasingly interested in the origins of the grapes. But then one day a policeman turned up: he'd been selling wine with no liquor license. His stock was impounded, and he had to pay all the taxes that were due.

From that setback, he founded Blank Bottle, named because Pieter believes in not showing the grape variety on the label. It came about in a legendary moment in 2004 when a woman wanted to buy a red wine, anything but Shiraz. He poured the only wine he had, which she loved, and bought three cases. It was a straight Shiraz.

Now Pieter makes up to forty different wines in any vintage, buying grapes from over seventy different sites. He even designs his labels.

This year, we're showcasing six wines. **Brazen** is a blend of Fernao Pires - from 37 year old vineyards in the Swartland - alongside amphora-aged Palomino from a 47 year old vineyard in Piekenierskloof, and Grenache Blanc from the Voor Paardeberg. It's a savoury, textured, vibrant white, with a long mineral finish. **Praus**, meanwhile, is biodynamically farmed Voor Paardeberg Shiraz, with a little Pinotage from Darling in the blend. It's juicy and so drinkable.

Aasvoel is Verdelho, from a single plot in Stellenbosch, that Pieter's always desperate to get his hands on. So much so, that he feels like a vulture - Aasvoel in Afrikaans - waiting to pick over the vineyard. **Ultra**, meanwhile, takes its name from the farmer's love of trance music - and more specifically a gig named Ultra. It's a Chenin Blanc from the Swartland, and is generous, textured, and astonishingly good value.

Little William is a Syrah from the high-altitude Ceres plateau. It's as pure and fragrant a Syrah as you'll find: think top-notch St-Joseph, or there's even a little Cote Rotie about it. Finally, **BIG** is Pieter's ode to South African Cabernet Sauvignon. It comes from eleven different vineyards, with eight Cabernet Sauvignon, two Cabernet Franc and one Petit Verdot, all from different altitudes.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2020 ULTRA, Swartland	£15 per btl	£90 per 6	2020 - 2028
2020 Aasvoël, Stellenbosch	£16 per btl	£96 per 6	2020 - 2028
2019 Brazen	£56 per jero	£56 per 1	2020 - 2025
2018 BIG	£18 per btl	£108 per 6	2022 - 2035
2019 Little William	£21 per btl	£126 per 6	2021 - 2033
2019 Little William	£42 per mag	£168 per 4	2021 - 2033
2019 Praus	£65 per jero	£65 per 1	2020 - 2028



Boekenhoutskloof

Gottfried Mocke

@boekenhoutskloof

No estate is more representative of modern winemaking in the Cape than Boekenhoutskloof. While the farm was originally established in Franschhoek in 1776, it was refounded by Marc Kent in 1994, with the first vintage in 1996.

On the whole, the estate follows the negociant model, buying in grapes from trusted sources, and managing vineyards where it's beneficial. But in recent years they've been buying up land, from Porseleinberg and Goldmine in the Swartland, and a more recent project in the Hemel-en-Aarde. And even in their heartlands of Franschhoek,

It's now Gottfried Mocke making the wines at Boekenhoutskloof, a man widely regarded by his peers as one of South Africa's greatest talents. A South African who studied in Germany and worked in France, and brings European experience and an intensely enquiring mind to this impressive property.

The first wine that put this estate on the map was the 1997 **Syrah**, and even today the estate Syrah remains a South African benchmark. Since 2016 it's been entirely Swartland fruit, benefitting from the minerality of the Porseleinberg, and the rounded fruit from the brown schist of Goldmine. Gottfried has also tweaked the vinification for this, focussing more on larger oak, and a purer expression of Syrah.

Another wine that's benefitting from the Swartland properties and Gottfried's arrival is **The Chocolate Block**. Seemingly ubiquitous, since Gottfried joined the estate in 2016, this Syrah based blend is getting better and better.

Boekenhoutskloof has also become known for their Cabernet Sauvignons, and they make two, one from Stellenbosch, and the second, from Franschhoek. The **Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon** comes from the Helderberg. Here, right by the ocean, the grapes ripen easily, and Gottfried is careful not to over ripen, or to over oak, the wines.

The **Franschhoek Cabernet Sauvignon** comes from four different sites, including some coming on stream from the estate itself. It's a wonderfully exuberant yet pure expression of Cabernet, that's one of the Cape's finest. A little Cabernet Franc makes it into the blend, too, which gives a touch of floral character.

Perhaps surprisingly, one of the most exciting wines in the cellar is their **Semillon**. It comes from some of the Cape's oldest vineyards, planted in 1902 and 1942, along with a drop of Muscat, also planted in 1902. Gottfried uses eggs, barriques, and now amphorae for this wine, that's one of the most textured, complex we know. It has to be tried.

Last but not least is the smallest production, the **Noble Late Semillon**. Next to the Franschhoek river, a maximum of 3,500 bottles are made every year from this vineyard, although they're looking to expand this with plantations of Muscat de Frontignan and Sauvignon Blanc. Since the vineyard moved to organics, they've noticed a better quality of botrytis, and this is a truly brilliant sweet wine. Although it sees two and half years in new oak, it's not syrupy, but rather has impeccable balance.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2018 Semillon, Franschhoek			
2019 The Chocolate Block			
2018 Syrah, Swartland			
2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Franschhoek			
2017 Noble Late Harvest, Franschhoek			

The new wines from Boekenhoutskloof will be released early in 2021.

The Producers



Boschkloof

Reenen Borman

@reenenborman

Reenen Borman grew up on the vineyard of La Motte, where his dad was wine director. So he always knew he wanted to be a winemaker. In 1994, his father, Jacques, and grandfather, were able to purchase the property that was to become Boschkloof: 24 hectares that used to be part of the enormous Spier Cooperative, on the prized granite slopes of Stellenbosch's Polkadraai. They built up the estate from the bottom, so Reenen is the third generation of the family here.

After studying winemaking, he went and did one harvest in France, and another in South Africa. But in 2010 his dad asked him to come home, to help out with the family estate. And two years later, he'd been given the keys full time to the winery, while his dad focussed on the farming.

This has allowed him to discover his own style of winemaking, while still tapping into his dad's astonishing amount of knowledge about South African winemaking. And that balance explains why this is one of South Africa's most exciting estates: particularly for Syrah.

Jacques Borman had always been known for Syrah, and so had the Boschkloof farm. So Reenen didn't understand why the most premium wine in the cellar was a Bordeaux blend. He set out to change this.

The **Epilogue Syrah** comes from a single vineyard on the estate, with granite soils and facing south-east, allowing slow and steady ripening. It's planted with the SH99 clone: a clone that brings perfume and elegance, but that's increasingly hard to find. But reducing the yields of the plot by a half, Reenen was able to increase the concentration of the wine, while not losing that perfume, and in the cellar too he experimented with less new oak, whole bunch and destemmed fruit, as well as more recently concrete eggs. The result is five or six batches in the cellar, that he uses as building blocks for the wine. And the wine has become one of the most sought after reds in South Africa, with astonishing critical acclaim.

If the Epilogue is Reenen's thoroughbred, then the **Sons of Sugarland Syrah** is something much wilder, and much more raw. It comes from the Karibib farm, just down the road from Boschkloof, from a plot that he shares with Lukas van Loggerenberg. He uses 100% whole bunch fermentation here, and the wine sees no oak whatsoever, rather ageing in concrete for a year before release. The result is an intense, lively, thrilling style of wine. It sees no manipulation in the cellar, but rather, in Reenen's words, "is what it is".

With two Syrahs in very different styles, both performing at the very top of their game, it's clear that Reenen Borman is an insanely talented winemaker. As he focuses his attention more and more on Boschkloof, and the Polkadraai gets more and more of a name for itself, the future is sure to be exciting.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Sons of Sugarland Syrah, Stellenbosch	£25 per btl	£150 per 6	2020 - 2032
2018 Epilogue, Stellenbosch	£40 per btl	£240 per 6	2022 - 2038



Botanica Wines

Ginny Povall

@botanicawines

American Ginny Povall had worked in New York City for 24 years, but came to South Africa in 2005 and felt a real upward trajectory. She came back in 2008 to do a harvest, and ended up buying a farm in Stellenbosch: the first flower farm in South Africa to cultivate Proteas.

Here, in a corner of paradise, in 2009 and 2010 she set about planting vineyards alongside François Viljoen, a talented farmer whose lack of English, and Ginny's lack of Afrikaans, proved an initial challenge.

She planted Bordeaux varieties on the property, alongside some Pinot Noir vines next to the house. And on a Cabernet block that wouldn't ripen, Ginny grafted **Albariño** vines, and now makes an example that's crisp, refreshing, and has you dreaming of Cape summers.

Now there are 10 hectares of flowers, which include four species of Proteas unique to the farm, and five hectares of organically farmed, high density vineyards. From a barrel selection of the Bordeaux varieties, Ginny makes the **Arboretum Red**. It's the pinnacle of the estate's production: a brilliant Bordeaux blend that punches well above its price point.

While her focus has, rightfully, been on the farm, Ginny also sources some grapes from elsewhere. While she was waiting for the vines on her farm to grow, she needed something to make. Her viticulturist hooked her up with an old vine **Chenin Blanc** vineyard on the Skurfberg. Here, on the Oudam farm, vines planted in 1961 on deep, sandy soils craft a brilliant white, that would go toe-to-toe with any wine being produced in South Africa today. But here the drought is taking its toll. The three hectare vineyard would, ten years ago, produce 8 - 10 tons a vintage. Now it will produce a maximum of five tons, and has dropped as low as 1.7 tons in the driest years. And that means there's not very much to go around.

Currently making wines at Zorgvliet down the road - Ginny's focus has always been on the vineyards - she's now looking at building her own winery on the estate. With that, her already impressive wines will surely only improve further.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2020 Albarino	£12 per btl	£144 per 12	2020 - 2022
2019 Chenin Blanc	£16.50 per btl	£99 per 6	2021 - 2030

The Producers



Crystallum
Peter-Allan Finlayson

@crystallumwines

Peter-Allan Finlayson is a third generation winemaker - a rare thing in South Africa.

His grandfather was a pathologist, but also owned Hartenberg estate, where wine was his main passion. Sadly the family lost the estate in the 1970s, but not before Peter-Allan's dad had studied wine science. He became the first winemaker at Hamilton Russell - and by extension the first winemaker in the Hemel-en-Aarde - in 1981. He started the second winery, Bouchard Finlayson, in 1989, before selling the family shares in the business in 2001.

Following in these footsteps, Peter-Allan started at university studying winemaking, but soon had second thoughts. So he switched to PPE, and ended up with an agency selling Burgundy barrels.

He started Crystallum in 2007, with his brother Andrew as a partner in the business, and his cousin able to give him some cellar space at Creation. He'd never worked in a cellar before, and there were challenges aplenty in the early years: the 2007 Pinot Noir went down the drain.

But in 2008, the **Cuvée Cinema**, a single vineyard Pinot Noir from Hemel-en-Aarde ridge received five stars in a wine magazine, and things started to fall into place.

Peter-Allan still makes this wine: the vineyard takes its name from the final use for the land before vineyards were planted: to shoot a film about Napoleon. Here, clay and iron rich soils with schist, just 6km from the ocean give plenty of structure: this is an intense Pinot Noir.

Another single vineyard, **Malabel**, was added in 2013. This is in the Elandskloof, on a farm that Peter-Allan's dad started working with in the 1990s. Here, there's more sand in the soil, and at 700 metres of altitude, it's a much finer, more elegant wine.

The **Peter Max Pinot Noir** is the introduction to the estate. It comes from five different plots, from different regions, and its name honours the first growers to sell grapes for the wine (the sources have since changed). With this wine, and indeed across the range, the next step for Peter-Allan is buying some vineyards and securing supply.

As well as some of South Africa's finest Pinot Noirs, Crystallum makes outstanding Chardonnay. The **Agnes Chardonnay** honours Peter-Allan's grandmother, who arrived in South Africa at the age of 14, and again is a blend of five different vineyards, from across the region.

Meanwhile, the **Clay Shales** is the pinnacle of the white production here, and is a Chardonnay from a single vineyard on the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge. With tons of tension, as well as breadth of flavour, it's surely a contender for South Africa's best Chardonnay.

	🇧🇪 Bottle	🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2019 Agnes Chardonnay, Walker Bay	£15 per btl	£90 per 6	2020 - 2028
2019 Clay Shales Chardonnay, Walker Bay	£21 per btl	£126 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Peter Max Pinot Noir, Walker Bay	£17 per btl	£102 per 6	2020 - 2026
2019 Cuvée Cinema Pinot Noir, Walker Bay	£26.50 per btl	£159 per 6	2021 - 2029
2019 Single Vineyard 'Mabalel' Pinot Noir, Walker Bay	£26.50 per btl	£159 per 6	2021 - 2029
2019 Whole Bunch Pinot Noir, Hemel-en-Aarde	£26.50 per btl	£159 per 6	2022 - 2028



David & Nadia
David & Nadia Sadie

@davidandnadia

The first reference to a Sadie in the Swartland dates from 1757, with the original Sadie an immigrant from Germany. David himself grew up in Malmesbury, in the heart of the region: he farms in this trendy part of the world, not because of the Swartland Revolution, but rather because it's in his blood. And on the other side of his family, there's history, too: his mum's dad farmed in the Kalahari, bottling 100 year old vines. This informs his philosophy - the idea that "bottling is preserving".

But being a winemaker wasn't always the plan. David wanted to play professional rugby, and studied agriculture so that his dad would support him. In his fourth year at university, he met Nadia, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Within his first month of working, he realised it wasn't for him: that he needed to be his own boss. So he started the winery in 2010, having married Nadia in 2009. In 2013 he began farming some of the vineyards himself, and the family, now with a young son, moved back to Swartland, to Paardebosch on the Paardeberg, visible from Adi Badenhorst's farm. In 2014 he restored the farm's cellar, which was built in 1795, and in 2016 Nadia joined the estate full time: it became David & Nadia.

They farm 65% of the vineyards themselves, while the rest they trust the growers to do a good job. All their equipment is second hand, and they've recently bought their own tractor to help with the farming. The results are pure expressions of this terroir.

Here, two grapes reign supreme. Their **Chenin** comes from seven vineyards planted between 1962 and 1984, on the different soils of the Swartland. It's as true an expression of Swartland Chenin as you'll find. With virtually no old vine Grenache in the country, David & Nadia's **Grenache** is centred on a single Paardeberg vineyard planted in the early 2000s. It's a vibrant expression of the grape, that comes in at just 13.5% abv.

They also make a couple of blends. **Aristargos** is a white blend, of Chenin blanc (47%), Sémillon (13%), Clairette blanche (11%), Viognier (10%), Marsanne (8%), Roussanne (6%), Verdelho (3%) and Grenache blanc (2%), and is all about silky, layered fruit. Meanwhile, red blend **Elpidios** started as a Syrah-driven wine, but has, since 2017, been Grenache-focussed. Just 5,000 bottles are made of this blend of Grenache (33%), Syrah (31%), Carignan (12%), Cinsault (12%) and Pinotage (12%), that ages absolutely wonderfully.

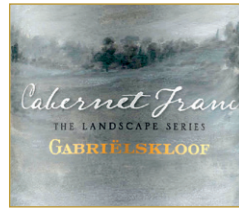
He also makes three hugely acclaimed single-vineyard Chenin Blancs. The first was the **Skaliekop**, from a vineyard planted in 1985 on the Paardebosch farm. It's an anomaly: an island of schist on the normally granite Paardeberg. Indeed, the name means hill of Shale, which gives a mineral, reserved character to the wine.

The **Hoë Steen**, literally high Chenin Blanc, comes from tall bush vines (hence the name) planted in 1968 on iron rich soils some 40km to the west. South-facing, it ripens late, and there's a bed of limestone, virtually unheard of in the Swartland, that brings nervy acidity alongside the wine's creamy texture.

The latest addition to the range is the **Plat'bos**, and this is just the second vintage released. This is a 1981 planted vineyard on decomposed granite, right next door to Skaliekop. North facing, it's the warmest site, and produces a spicy, ageworthy Chenin Blanc.

	🇧🇪 Bottle	🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2019 Aristargos	£18.50 per btl	£111 per 6	2020 - 2030
2019 Chenin Blanc	£20 per btl	£120 per 6	2020 - 2030
2019 Skaliekop Chenin Blanc	£41 per btl	£246 per 6	2021 - 2032
2019 Plat'Bos Chenin Blanc	£41 per btl	£246 per 6	2021 - 2032
2019 Hoë Steen Chenin Blanc	£41 per btl	£246 per 6	2021 - 2032
2018 Elpidios	£18.50 per btl	£111 per 6	2021 - 2032
2019 Grenache	£20 per btl	£120 per 6	2021 - 2034

The Producers



Gabrielskloof

Peter-Allan Finlayson

@gabrielskloof

The impressive Gabrielskloof estate in Botriver was bought by Bernhard Heys in 2001. At this point there was nothing here: just a few wheat fields and some slightly lost sheep. They started planting in 2003, predominantly with Syrah and Bordeaux varieties, and now there are 65 hectares planted on 150 hectares of land.

In 2014 his son-in-law, Peter-Allan Finlayson of Crystallum moved to the cellar on the estate, and from 2015 he's started making the wines.

For Peter-Allan, the challenge with **Cabernet Franc** is avoiding any form of greenness in the wine. So picking date is key; so too is managing extraction. But in 2017 he's really found his feet: this is one of the best examples of the grape we've come across in the Cape.

With the **Syrah on Sandstone**, Peter-Allan is rather more at his ease: it is, for him, a lot more like making Pinot Noir. He's looking to make, in his words, "a smashable Syrah", and this, with plenty of juicy fruit and mouthwatering minerality, fits the bill perfectly. It's slightly more serious than he gives it credit for, however: give this a few more years in bottle, and watch it blossom.

Meanwhile, he's managed to convince his father-in-law to buy a few grapes from parcels of old vine Chenin Blanc, to make the **Elodie Chenin Blanc**. It comes from five different vineyards, all of which are over 35 years of age, including Chris Alheit's Paardeberg farm, and some Durbanville fruit.

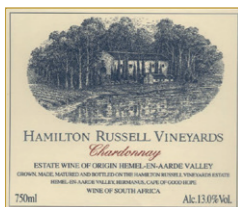
Now the estate is working towards organic certification, working with South Africa's most famous viticulturist, Rosa Kruger, to ensure that the right grapes are planted in the right places. And that's resulted in a process of replanting, with Grenache and Cabernet Franc in particular being planted.

As these come online, and Peter-Allan gets more and more experience with grape varieties that he previously didn't know well, Gabrielskloof has an exciting future ahead.

	£ Bottle	🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2018 Elodie Chenin Blanc, Swartland	£16.50 per btl	£99 per 6	2020 - 2030
2017 Syrah On Sandstone, Bot River	£20 per btl	£120 per 6	2020 - 2030
2017 Cabernet Franc, Bot River	£20 per btl	£120 per 6	2022 - 2032



The Producers



Hamilton Russell

Anthony Hamilton Russell

@olive_hamilton_russell

When it comes to the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, and Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in South Africa in general, Hamilton Russell remains the benchmark.

It was 1975 when Tim Hamilton Russell, an advertising executive, purchased a property just inland from the sleepy fishing village of Hermanus, seemingly hanging out into the Southern Ocean. Vines were planted in 1976, and the first wine to be produced was the 1981 Pinot Noir.

His son, Anthony, took over in 1991, finally buying the property outright in 1994. While Tim had always had one eye fixed firmly on Burgundy, with Anthony this focus solidified. All the Hamilton Russell vineyards were reserved for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, with a focus on stony, clay-rich, shale-derived soil for plantations, identified through extensive soil analysis. This examination of the terroir also convinced Anthony of the differences within the Hemel-en-Aarde valley: he was a huge advocate for the creation of a single ward, or appellation, for the vines planted on this clay-rich soil at the bottom of the valley, now known as the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley ward.

Alongside a focus on the soil, there was emphasis put on vines themselves, and more specifically the clones of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay used: not the high-yielding Champagne clones that had initially been planted, but a drive to more qualitative Burgundy examples.

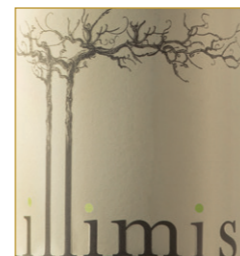
With these changes over time, under the stewardship of Hannes Storm until 2013, and Emul Ross since then, Hamilton Russell's wines have continued to grow in stature and renown.

The **Hamilton Russell Pinot Noir** is a savoury, brooding expression of the grape, that really shows itself after a few years of slumber. From soils with plenty of clay - Anthony points to the similarities with Burgundy - the fruit here is dark, and the potential, enormous. Sadly, in 2019 there was no Pinot Noir bottled, due to forest fires that raged nearby.

The **Hamilton Russell Chardonnay**, meanwhile, shows generosity of fruit, and spice that comes from 45% new oak, but also plenty of minerality and focus. It's a classically styled, Côte de Beaune-like expression of the grape.

But alongside his love of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, Anthony is also a huge believer in South Africa's Pinotage. And that led to the purchase in 1996 of the Ashbourne estate, just inland from Hamilton Russell's vineyards. He named the property after his great, great grandfather, who was Lord Chancellor of Ireland in the late 1800s. The first **Ashbourne Pinotage** was released in 2001, and it's as serious an expression of this sometimes-maligned grape variety as you'll find: a wine that impresses with its silky texture and depth of fruit, time in the bottle will allow it to flourish even more.

	🇬🇧 Bottle	🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2019 Chardonnay	£22.50 per btl	£135 per 6	2021 - 2029
2017 Ashbourne Pinotage	£29 per btl	£174 per 6	2022 - 2033



Illimis Wines

Lucinda Heyns

@illimiswines

Lucinda Heyns grew up in Namibia, a long way from winemaking country. Yet thanks to her dad, a Stellenbosch native, wine was never far away. And although she'd never imagined becoming a winemaker, it was the scientific, human, and creative elements of a winemaking and viticulture degree that ended up appealing.

She'd always assumed she'd go down the vineyard route, yet working at Jordan, with a soil scientist as a boss, she realised that it was in the vines that her passion really lay. Experience at some of California's greatest names followed, including Screaming Eagle and Della Valle, before she worked with Rajat Parr and Sashi Moorman at Domaine de la Côte and Sandhi, in her own words, "learning nuance and restraint in wines".

Returning to South Africa in 2015, she wanted to start her own thing, and Illimis was born. Meaning clarity in latin, it reflects her love of vineyards: she wants to do as little as possible in the cellar, and picks sources for the grapes with a clear idea of the style she wants to make.

We were totally blown away by Lucinda's **Cinsault**, when we tasted it for the first time last year. It's from a 1974-planted vineyard in Darling, on red sandy soils, and she's making it in a style that's most reminiscent of top Beaujolais. With 50% Carbonic Maceration, and the rest whole bunch fermentation, this brings out a really floral, elegant side to the Cinsault grape. It's a really beautiful red.

Her **Chenin Blanc**, meanwhile, is different from all the other Chenins in our range: it comes from Elgin, one of the coolest grape-growing regions in South Africa. Planted on Bokkeveld Shale - not all that dissimilar to the soils of the Loire's Savennières - this is as cool and precise as South African Chenin gets.

	🇬🇧 Bottle	🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2017 Chenin Blanc	£22 per btl	£132 per 6	2020 - 2029
2017 Cinsault	£16.50 per btl	£99 per 6	2020 - 2029



Kanonkop

Abrie Beeslaar

@kanonkopwineestate

Kanonkop takes its name from a hillock on the Simonsberg mountain, from which a cannon would be fired to announce the arrival of ships into Table Bay.

Now run by two brothers, Paul and Johann Krige, fourth generation owners, the estate can trace its history back to when their great-great-grandmother sold the majority of the family estate of Uityk in the 1930s. She retained a portion for her son, the National Party politician Paul Sauer, however, which would become known as the Kanonkop estate. It was in 1973, just three years before his death, under the guidance of winemaker and former Springbok rugby player (and Adi Badenhorst's father-in-law) Jan Boland Coetzee, that Kanonkop started bottling its own wines.

In the 1980s, the brothers realised the necessity of specialising in certain grape varieties, which continues to inform their philosophy today. And so the estate has focussed on red varieties, in particular Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinotage.

Paul Sauer is the calling card of the estate, named after the farm's most famous owner. It was the first South African wine to be awarded a perfect score by a major international critic, with the 2015 receiving 100 points from Tim Atkin MW. In 2017 it's a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc, and 7% Merlot, from vines of an average of 29 years old. It is, as always, a contender for South Africa's finest Bordeaux blend.

The **Estate Cabernet Sauvignon** could be thought of as a mini Paul Sauer. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, from vineyards averaging 26 years old, this is a structured, powerful wine in 2015, that will need plenty of time to come around.

For many people, **Pinotage** is what Kanonkop does best: indeed most winemakers in South Africa view it as the benchmark for this divisive grape variety. The grape variety was first planted on Kanonkop in the 1940s, and this comes from bush vines that are aged between 31 and 65 years old. Fermented in open top concrete tanks, and aged in 80% new barrels, it's a wine that blossoms with time in bottle, becoming more and more reminiscent of its Pinot Noir roots.

While Kanonkop gives off an aura of tradition and conservatism, it's fair to say that the estate's not standing still. A new winery was completed in the last few years, and the estate is able to generate 50% of its electricity needs from solar power.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2018 Pinotage, Stellenbosch	£22 per btl	£132 per 6	2020 - 2035
2015 Cabernet Sauvignon, Stellenbosch	£25 per btl	£150 per 6	2020 - 2032
2017 Paul Sauer, Stellenbosch	£33 per btl	£198 per 6	2023 - 2040

The Producers



Keermont

Alex Starey

@keermontvineyards

Alex Starey grew up at the bottom of the Blaauwklippen valley, where his dad was a farmer. It was a diverse farm, with dairy, fruit, and around 20 - 30% grapes. But watching the vintage here, and seeing his dad's work, inspired Alex to go to Stellenbosch University, to study viticulture and oenology.

After uni, he worked in Chile, before hitchhiking in Europe, ending up in Rioja where he worked for a large Cava producer. But being in Spain allowed him to travel to Priorat with Chris Mullineux, a classmate from Stellenbosch. Here he was able to spend time with Eben Sadie, experiencing some of the world's greatest wines, and forged links that led to him working at legendary Priorat estate Clos Erasmus in 2004.

When he got back to South Africa he worked at De Trafford for a few months, where he met Mark Wraith, who'd just bought two farms in the same valley, and wanted to plant some grapes on the property that was renamed Keermont. This happened to be the top of the same valley where Alex had grown up: no one was better placed to understand the farm's terroir, and Alex spent a few years studying the soils, and carefully deciding what to plant.

The plan initially was just to grow grapes and sell them to other wineries, but Alex started by making a few bottles, and in 2007 made the first commercial vintage from the estate, using an old water bottling plant as the estate's cellar.

Syrah thrives here, and Alex makes two single vineyard examples: the **Steepside Syrah** produces a riper wine, from a north-facing vineyard with plenty of clay in the soil, from the Helderberg side of the estate. The **Topside Syrah**, meanwhile, comes from a site with much more sand in the soil, and more of a rocky element. West facing, it receives the afternoon sun, and always feels cooler than the Steepside, producing a more driven, perfumed wine.

And from these vineyards, and one other further down the valley, comes the **Estate Syrah**. This is one of the best value Syrahs in South Africa, showing the perfect balance of the characteristics of each of the constituent parts.

Alex is also passionate about the Cabernet Franc produced on the estate, and is making a single vineyard wine, the **Pondokrug Cabernet Franc**. From deep clay soils, this is an intense, ripe and powerful wine, but one that benefits from Alex's delicate winemaking.

The **Terrasse White** comes from terraced vineyards, including the old **Riverside Chenin Blanc** vineyard, planted in 1971, which is also bottled on its own. The Terrasse also has Chenin from two younger vineyards and varying fractions of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier, and from 2017 some Roussanne and Marsanne from recently planted vineyards. It's a white that ages beautifully.

Last but not least from the estate is the **Fleurfontein**, a late harvest Sauvignon Blanc that takes its name from a spring that sits near to the vineyard. Here, raisins are produced by pinching the stem of the grape bunches while they ripen on the vine. The result is a luscious sweet wine, that balances all that sugar with beautiful acidity.

	🍷 Bottle	🍷🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2017 Terrasse White, Stellenbosch	£13 per btl	£78 per 6	2020 - 2027
2018 Riverside Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch	£27.50 per btl	£165 per 6	2020 - 2030
2015 Syrah, Stellenbosch	£18 per btl	£108 per 6	2020 - 2028
2016 Steepside Syrah, Stellenbosch	£36.50 per btl	£219 per 6	2021 - 2036
2016 Topside Syrah, Stellenbosch	£36.50 per btl	£219 per 6	2021 - 2036
2016 Pondokrug Cabernet Franc, Stellenbosch	£28 per btl	£168 per 6	2021 - 2036
2018 Fleurfontein, Stellenbosch	£15 per half	£90 per 6	2020 - 2029



The Producers



Klein Constantia

Matt Day

@kleinconstantia

No South African estate is as defined by a single wine as Klein Constantia is by Vin de Constance. Drunk by kings and queens, emperors and presidents, poets and novelists, its history could easily be written as a history of winemaking in the Cape, dating back to the time of the colony's first governor, Simon van der Stel.

Yet the estate's more recent history only begins in 1986, when the first modern wines were released from the estate. In 2011 the estate received new owners, Zdenek Bakala and Charles Harman, who purchased it from the Jooste family, architects of Klein Constantia's revival. And in 2012, the estate gained two new shareholders: legendary Bordeaux winemakers and château owners, Bruno Prats and Hubert de Boüard.

Matt Day is the winemaker here. A Johannesburg native, he studied at Stellenbosch and worked at Meerlust, before joining Klein Constantia. He's worked all over the world - from California to Australia, and has done numerous vintages in France, in both Bordeaux and Sancerre, with Pascal Jolivet - before starting at Klein Constantia in 2008. By 2012 he was head winemaker, and under his guidance, Vin de Constance is getting better and better.

Matt's looking to make "a sweet wine that doesn't taste sweet", and that's all about balance. With any harvest that takes months to complete, as workers pass through the vineyards individually picking sometimes as little as one kilogram a day, one of the biggest challenges is managing so many different batches. But Matt is a master of bringing these together into a homogenous wine: in 2017 that meant 20 batches, blended together into six, and then into the final wine. And Matt's using more large oak barrels now, ensuring the wine stays fresher and purer.

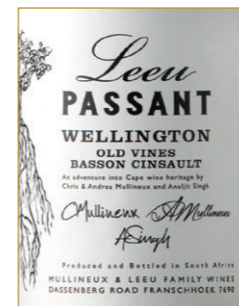
The results are spectacular: the **2017 Vin de Constance** is surely one of the greatest ever produced.

But there's much more to Klein Constantia than simply Vin de Constance. Indeed, this stunning vineyard produces some of the world's finest Sauvignon Blancs, benefitting from the cooling influence of oceans on both sides, as well as altitudes of up to around 250m above sea level.

The **Metis Sauvignon Blanc** was inspired by Matt's time in Sancerre. It comes from a single plot at high altitude, with more granite in the soil than the single vineyards. Treated naturally in the cellar, with as little intervention as possible, Matt leaves this on the lees for longer than when he started, and is putting more and more of the blend into oak. The result is a wine that impresses with its tension and sizzling energy, but that doesn't lack breadth, or mouffilling texture.

The **Clara Sauvignon Blanc** meanwhile is a blend of four of Klein Constantia's finest Sauvignon blocks, with just 3,700 bottles produced in 2019. In 2019, it's a blend of Blocks 361, 372, 381, and the legendary Perdeblokke vineyard, and it sees 40% new oak. Yet this wine has more than enough oomph to deal with that new wood: it's a truly ravishing expression of Sauvignon Blanc, that shows why this estate needs to be taken so seriously for dry whites.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Metis	£15 per btl	£90 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Clara	£15 per btl	£90 per 6	2021 - 2032
2019 Anabel Rosé	£30 per mag	£90 per 3	2020 - 2025
2017 Vin de Constance	£39.00 per 500ml btl	£234 per 6	2021 - 2050
2017 Vin de Constance	£129 per mag	£387 per 3	2021 - 2050



Leeu Passant

Chris & Andrea Mullineux

In 2013, Chris and Andrea Mullineux entered a partnership with Anajit Singh. And this opened up a new chapter for the couple. Up until this point, Mullineux had focussed entirely on the Swartland, as continues today. But over the years, Rosa Kruger had been suggesting parcels of vines outside the region that could be interesting. Now they had an opportunity to seek these out.

The wines are made in the stunning environs of Leeu Estates in Franschhoek, which is also a luxury hotel. And that allows Chris and Andrea to keep the two projects separate. The name Leeu Passant is taken from heraldry, and means a walking lion. Not only does it reflect the crest of Leeu estates, but also it alludes to the search across the Cape for historic vineyards.

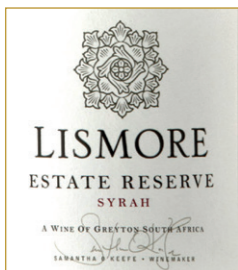
Chardonnay in the cape, and more specifically in Stellenbosch, has been much maligned. A lot of this is down to the plant material, which was often virus infected, or not even Chardonnay at all. But a parcel high on the Helderberg mountain challenges that, with a lovely lemon oil character, and impressive mineral length. Just 6,000 bottles are produced, however.

Again, just 6,000 bottles are produced of the estate's **Cabernet Sauvignon**, which again seeks to redefine preconceptions about South African Cabernet. It comes from cooler sites across Stellenbosch, including a 39 year old parcel close to the sea, and parcels on the Helderberg and in the Polkadraai hills. It's silky, savoury, and sure to be ageworthy.

Arguably most interesting, are two Cinsaults from the two oldest red wine vineyards remaining in the cape, which have both been farmed by the Mullineuxs since 2014. There are just 1,800 bottles of the **Wellington Old Vines Basson Cinsault**, from a plot planted in 1900. And from a plot in Franschhoek planted in 1932, there are just 5,000 bottles of the **Franschhoek Old Vines Lötter Cinsault**.

And then the culmination of these wines is the **Dry Red**, inspired by the South African reds of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. At this time, wines labelled as Cabernet Sauvignon would frequently have a considerable proportion of Cinsault, and this is an equal blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Cinsault, with grapes from the aforementioned vineyards included in the blend. In its youth, this is structured and intense, but with bottle age it's sure to flourish.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2018 Stellenbosch Chardonnay	£44 per btl	£264 per 6	2021 - 2031
2018 Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon	£25 per btl	£150 per 6	2023 - 2040
2017 Wellington Basson Cinsault	£42 per btl	£252 per 6	2021 - 2030
2018 Franschhoek Cinsault	£42 per btl	£252 per 6	2021 - 2030
2017 Dry Red	£69 per btl	£414 per 6	2022 - 2035



Lismore Estate Vineyards

Samantha O'Keefe

The week before Christmas 2019, disaster struck Lismore Estate Vineyards. A fire that had been burning for seven days in the hills behind the property suddenly changed direction, and ran straight through the estate, burning vines, the cellar, the entire 2019 production, and Sam O'Keefe's family home.

Sam is a visionary. After a brief career in television in her native USA, she headed to South Africa and bought an old farm, deep in the Western Cape. She was the first person to plant vines in the hills that surround the tiny town of Greyton. This is apple and dairy land, and the locals thought her mad: even today the closest vineyard is 50km away.

At 300m altitude, this is cool climate vine growing, and the growing season is some three weeks longer than in Stellenbosch. Research shows similarities with the Northern Rhône: she planted Syrah and Viognier (and some Chardonnay, pointing at her Californian roots).

Her style was made by necessity rather than idealism: she didn't have the money to spend on modern equipment, so she began making wines in a traditional way. Over the years, the plaudits began to pour in, with her bright, textured wines gaining critical acclaim.

But just as Sam started to feel on top of everything, last December's fire threatened it all. The wine industry has rallied round, donating grapes to turn into wine, it's clear that Sam needs all the support the world can give.

We have every belief that she will find the strength to bring Lismore back.

The **Barrel Fermented Sauvignon Blanc** gives away the winemaking in the name. A blend of fruit from the Lismore vineyards, and also from a vineyard overlooking Walker Bay. Cool temperatures preserve acidity, and this is all about texture and minerality. Delicious.

Also hugely textured is the **Age of Grace Viognier**. From a vineyard in Elgin, at high altitude on rose-quartz soils, this is sensual and exotic, without being overblown: a brilliantly balanced Viognier. The **Chardonnay**, meanwhile, comes from the estate, and is made in a more Chablis-eque style than the Reserve.

The **Syrah** is a blend of 30% Greyton fruit, and the rest from a shale and sandstone vineyard in Elgin. These cool vineyards produce a Syrah that's all about pepper and rose petal.

The Reserve range of wines is Sam's calling card: a selection of the finest wines from any given vintage. The **Reserve Viognier** shows how this finicky grape suits the cool climate of Greyton. The **Reserve Chardonnay**, meanwhile, shows stunning minerality alongside a little more richness than the straight Chardonnay. We can see why Neal Martin called it, "almost Corton Charlemagne like".

The **Reserve Syrah** is a spectacular wine, too. From decomposed shale soils, from one of the coolest areas in South Africa, it's a stunningly elegant, defined, perfumed expression of the grape.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2017 Barrel Fermented Sauvignon Blanc Cape South Coast	£15 per btl	£90 per 6	2021 - 2028
2018 Viognier 'The Age of Grace' Cape South Coast	£15 per btl	£90 per 6	2020 - 2026
2017 Chardonnay Greyton	£17.50 per btl	£105 per 6	2021 - 2028
2018 Chardonnay Reserve Greyton	£27.50 per btl	£165 per 6	2021 - 2032
2018 Viognier Reserve Greyton	£27.50 per btl	£165 per 6	2021 - 2030
2017 Syrah Cape South Coast	£22 per btl	£132 per 6	2021 - 2032
2018 Syrah Reserve Greyton	£33 per btl	£198 per 6	2022 - 2038



Lourens Family Wines

Franco Lourens

@lourensfamilywines

Lourens Family Wines only started in 2016. Yet now, even just with his fourth release, it's clear that Franco Lourens is one of the country's hottest young talents.

When Franco left school the career aptitude tests gave him three options: marketing, teaching, or winemaking. He figured the latter would give him the chance to make free booze for the rest of his life. Growing up in Paarl he'd seen vineyards every day, and his grandfather had farmed wine grapes before passing away when Franco was young: there was enough of a spark there to encourage him to persevere.

Having studied viticulture in Wellington, and done a postgraduate year at Elsenberg, Franco set out to work for as many winemakers as he could - roles that generally involved cleaning tanks and barrels. He worked harvests at Vasse Felix in Western Australia, David Ramey in California, and Matassa in the south of France, before settling down as assistant winemaker alongside Chris Alheit in 2016, as he started his own project.

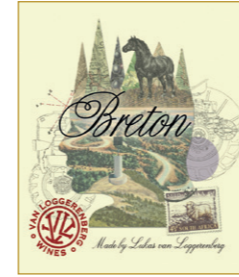
Lindi Carien is his keynote white. In 2019 it's a blend of Chenin Blanc, from the Uityk farm on the Paardeberg, from 36 year old vines, Verdelho from Stellenbosch, and Grenache Blanc, from the slow ripening Piekenierskloof. It's named after Franco's wife - who forewent an engagement ring as he bought his first supply of grapes.

Howard John, meanwhile, is in honour of his dad, and is a red blend that comes, from 2019, entirely from the Swartland. This is his favourite iteration yet: the grenache and syrah come from the Paardeberg, while the Cinsault comes from dry famed vines on red iron soils.

And while these blends are the key to the estate, he also, depending on the vintage, makes a few single vineyard wines. This year, there's the **Blouklip Steen**, a Chenin Blanc from Durbanville just outside Cape Town. The Blouklip shale soils give a real richness to the fruit here. Also, in honour of his newborn daughter, **Lua Ilse**, he's made just 777 bottles of Grenache from young vines in Piekenierskloof, a delicate, perfumed expression of the grape.

2020 is a big year for Franco. He's left Chris Alheit's cellar to set out entirely on his own, and will be sharing cellar space with Lukas van Loggerenberg in Paarl. We can't wait to see what the next chapter brings.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Lindi Carien	£18 per btl	£108 per 6	2020 - 2027
2019 Blouklip Steen	£30 per btl	£180 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Howard John	£18 per btl	£108 per 6	2021 - 2029
2019 Lua Ilse	£23.50 per btl	£141 per 6	2021 - 2030



Lukas van Loggerenberg

Lukas van Loggerenberg

@lukasvanloggerenberg

Lukas van Loggerenberg grew up in South Africa's bulk wine producing heartlands. So he was always surrounded by vineyards and by wine, even if he didn't see wine as his future.

Rather, he'd always dreamed of being a doctor. But the son of a single mother, financially this was never viable. So he did a harvest at a local cooperative, which led to him going to Elsberg Agricultural Training Institute, where he was roommates with Reenen Borman from Boschklouf - they remain best mates to this day.

He started his career working at a large estate, making oaky, heavily extracted wines - as far removed as you could imagine from his wines today. But it was a couple of harvests spent in the USA that really opened Lukas' eyes to fine wine.

It was drinking fine wines with generous benefactors that made Lukas realise that these wines all had something in common: a sense of place, and the passion of the winemakers behind them.

And that informs Lukas' winemaking today. As he himself explains, "You can have the world's best horse, but if you have a bad jockey it won't win anything. A jockey's job is like a winemaker's - to guide that horse over the finishing line".

Kamaraderie was the first vineyard he started with - the farmer was best man at Lukas' wedding. This Chenin Blanc vineyard is situated in Paarl, in the Klein Drakenstein mountains, and was planted in 1960, and produces a stunning white, that needs time to unfurl.

Trust your Gut is Lukas' attempt "to make the perfect western cape Chenin". In 2019 it's 73% from the Paardeberg, from next door to Eben Sadie's farm, which brings texture and tension, and 27% from the granite soils of Stellenbosch's Polkedraai, which brings intense yellow fruit.

Also from the Polkedraai comes **Graft**, a single vineyard Syrah from the highest vineyard in the area, from which you can see False Bay, that's shared with Reenen. It's Hermitage in style and substance, with incredible length. Lukas spent three years securing the barrels for this, talking to dozens of Rhône winemakers in the process.

Breton is the old Loire name for Cabernet Franc, which are some of Lukas' favourite wines. This comes from the farm on the Polkedraai where Lukas lives, and is, in his words, "a glass of wine you want to smell the tension on". It will require a few years in bottle: with that, it will be a truly glorious glass of red wine.

For Lukas, a good glass of Cinsault should be like jumping into weightlessness, shouting Geronimo. This mainly comes from 40+ year old vines on the Helderberg, and as a one-off some vines from Bot Rivier. It's a charming red, incredibly delicate in colour, but with the stuffing to last a few years. It's one of the Cape's best Cinsaults.

And also made from Cinsault is the **Break-a-Leg Rosé**. Lukas is a huge fan of Provence Rosé, so he decided to make his own. The grapes come from the lower Helderberg in Stellenbosch, from the closest vineyard to the ocean, and the wine is subtle, textured, and delicious.

	🇬🇧 Bottle	🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2019 Chenin Blanc 'Kamaraderie'	£23 per btl	£138 per 6	2022 - 2030
2019 Chenin Blanc 'Trust Your Gut'	£23 per btl	£138 per 6	2022 - 2030
2019 Break-a-Leg Rosé	£10 per btl	£60 per 6	2020 - 2023
2019 Cinsault 'Geronimo'	£16 per btl	£96 per 6	2020 - 2025
2019 Syrah 'Graft'	£23 per btl	£138 per 6	2023 - 2032
2019 Cabernet Franc 'Breton'	£23 per btl	£138 per 6	2023 - 2030

The Producers



Meerlust

Chris Williams / Wim Truter

@meerlustwine

The beautiful Meerlust estate has been in the hands of the Mybergh family since 1756: this is a Cape winery with a remarkable history. It's situated on a granite outcrop overlooking False Bay, with the sea sitting just 5km from the estate, which offers respite from the heat of summer with cooling breezes and evening mists. Indeed, it was this that led the first owner, a German immigrant called Henning Huising, to call it Meerlust, meaning 'pleasure of the sea'.

The winemaker here since 2004 had been Chris Williams. But at the end of 2019 he left, to concentrate fully on his own project at The Foundry. So he's been replaced by Wim Truter, who was previously at the helm of the historic KWV cellars at Paarl: the 2020 vintage will be his first.

Rubicon is the benchmark wine of the estate. A Bordeaux blend, it was first produced in 1980 by Nico Myburgh, father of the current custodian of the estate, Hannes Myburgh. He'd been holidaying in Bordeaux, and saw the similarities between his corner of the Cape, and this most celebrated of regions.

But at this stage, Bordeaux blends in South Africa were virtually unheard of. After some years experimenting alongside his legendary Italian winemaker, Giorgio Dalla Cia, the blend was settled on: 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. As they set out on a new path for South African wine, an acquaintance of Nico suggested that they had crossed the Rubicon. The name stuck, and the wine remains a South African legend today, with an astonishing ability to age.

The **Chardonnay** here, meanwhile, is a slightly richer style than is the fashion with some of South Africa's new wave winemakers. It comes from four different plots on the estate, from different soil types, all facing south to preserve freshness. And the wine is creamy and intense, but still with plenty of saline focus. It's a joyful white, from a truly historic estate.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Chardonnay	£15 per btl	£90 per 6	2020 - 2025
2017 Rubicon	This will be released in the Spring		2022 - 2035



Minimalist wines

Sam Lambson

@minimalistwines

Sam Lambson is still only 23 year old. But chatting to him, and tasting his wines, you'd be forgiven for thinking him a lot older. He was born and brought up in Johannesburg, far from the winelands of the Cape. And other than some exposure on the dinner table at home, he'd never really had any exposure to wine.

So it was pure chance that he found himself studying wine at Stellenbosch University. At school he'd been toying with various different career options, but when he heard that a friend of his brother was toying with the idea of winemaking, it struck a chord. Sam had been fascinated by cooking and flavours for a few years, and this, coupled with his aversion to a desk job, meant that he fell in love with the idea of winemaking before he really knew what it was: none of his family thought he'd finish the course.

In Stellenbosch he worked at a small wine shop for extra cash, and this allowed him to discover wines, not only from South Africa's new wave, but also from around the world. But during his second and third years at university he started suffering from depression. But while he struggled with feeling emotion on an everyday basis, he noticed that wine, and Syrah in particular, could always elicit a response.

He'd always had an entrepreneurial spirit, going back to DJing at children's parties when he was growing up, so when he started to feel better, he decided to take a chance and to start making his own wines, buying grapes and a few old barrels with his savings.

The first wine that came about was the **Stars in the Dark Syrah**, that comes from Elim, near Cape Agulhas, in the far south of the Cape, and the name of which alludes to the role that wine played in helping him with his depression.

In 2019 it comes from two separate vineyards. The first, planted on Koffieklip soils, brings a floral, fragrant element, while the second, on schist, brings much more savouriness and a restrained fruit profile. The interplay between the two makes a refined, impressive Syrah, that is sure to age beautifully.

Sam's now making his wines from a shared cellar space in the Polkedraai, having spent a year helping Chris Alheit at Hemelrand. And he's looking to get more and more involved with the farming of the vineyards he uses, while also looking at other sources for grapes. At such a young age, it's clear that there's an exciting future ahead.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Stars in the Dark Elim Syrah	£20 per btl	£120 per 6	2022 - 2032

The Producers



Momento

Marelise Niemann

@momento_wines

Marelise Niemann has worked all over the world: with Silver Oak and Twomey Cellars in California, François Villard in the Northern Rhône, Dirk Niepoort in the Douro, and Eben Sadie at his Priorat property. And it was here that she really fell in love with Grenache. In South Africa she worked for seven years at Beaumont, but in 2014 realised she wanted to concentrate fully on her own project, Momento. From 2015 Peter-Allan Finlayson was able to offer her some cellar space at Gabrielskloof in Botrivier, and now she's moved next door, where she makes wine in exchange for a cellar at Anysbos.

Hers is a real contender for South Africa's finest **Grenache**. She calls Grenache "South Africa's Pinot Noir", and is always looking to make as elegant and precise an example as possible: this comes in at just 13.5% abv, yet is perfectly ripe. It comes mainly from a farm on the Paardeberg, next to Eben Sadie's farm, with a drop of Voor Paardeberg and Bot Rivier fruit in 2018, from young vines and carefully selected clones.

Her first white was a **Chenin Blanc/Verdelho** blend. Wary of the propensity of Chenin Blanc to lose acidity when ripening, she wanted something to add vibrancy to the white. The Chenin comes from a 1979-planted vineyard on the Paardeberg, from the same farm as the Grenache, and a 1982-planted vineyard in Botrivier, while the Verdelho comes from the Voor Paardeberg. This is a beautifully elegant, textured white.

Her **Tinta Barocca**, meanwhile, is a real labour of love. She loves the grape variety, and this comes from three different, old vine sources: one in Bot Rivier, one in Stellenbosch, and then a parcel on the same farm on the Paardeberg as the other two wines. This is a bottling that benefits from a couple of years in bottle: with that it develops wonderful smoky notes, and hints of blood orange.

Newest in the range (for the time being - she's adding Grenache Blanc to complete the trilogy next year) is her **Grenache Gris**. This comes from the only vineyard she knows of in South Africa, that's just seven years old. It's a spectacular wine: textured, savoury, and stunningly long, you'll struggle to find a better food wine.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2018 Chenin Blanc / Verdelho, Western Cape	£16.50 per btl	£99 per 6	2020 - 2027
2018 Grenache Gris, Western Cape	£17 per btl	£102 per 6	2020 - 2027
2018 Tinta Barocca, Swartland	£18.50 per btl	£111 per 6	2022 - 2032
2018 Grenache, Swartland	£21 per btl	£126 per 6	2022 - 2032



The Producers



Mont Blois
Nina-Marie & Ernst Bruwer
 @montbloiswines

The region of Robertson isn't usually associated with fine wines. But Ernst and Nina-Marie Bruwer are doing their very best to change that.

The Mont Blois farm has been in the Bruwer family since the 1860s, and Ernst is the sixth generation to farm this dry corner of the Cape. Indeed, until the Brandvlei Dam was built in 1919 the region would have been too dry to grow any vines.

When vines were planted, in the second half of the twentieth century much of the production was sold to the Distillers' Corporation (and a considerable portion is still sold to its successor, Distell). But even in the 1970s and 1980s the estate produced quality wines under the Mont Blois label, before it was retired in 1990.

Both Nina-Mari and Ernst studied viticulture and oenology at Stellenbosch, where they met. After university, Nina-Mari worked at both Boekenhoutskloof and Thelema and did a harvest in Bordeaux, before she married Ernst and settled on Mont Blois, initially focussing on the estate admin while they started a family.

But for a Cape Wine Master (since 2014), the temptation to make her own wine was too much to resist, and from 2016 they revived the Mont Blois label with a selection of simply delicious wines. These are surely the finest examples coming out of Robertson today.

The **Kweekamp** Chardonnay comes from a high altitude vineyard, planted on limestone. Limestone, the top pick for Chardonnay plantations throughout the world, is a rarity in the Cape, and this is a tense, mineral yet pleasingly open expression of the grape, with a lovely lick of oak spice. Just five barrels are made. In recent years, as well as being bottled by the Bruwers, this vineyard is also around one third of the blend of Capensis, South Africa's most expensive Chardonnay, made by Jackson Family Wines.

The **Groot Steen Chenin Blanc**, meanwhile, comes from just three rows of a six hectare vineyard, planted thirty years ago on alluvial soils near the Breede valley. It doesn't go through malolactic fermentation, and remains tense, but with ripe notes of greengage and peaches.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2017 Kweekamp Chardonnay, Robertson	£18 per btl	£108 per 6	2020 - 2027
2017 Groot Steen' Chenin Blanc, Robertson	£18 per btl	£108 per 6	2020 - 2027



Mullineux
Andrea & Chris Mullineux
 @mullineuxwines

Chris and Andrea Mullineux met in 2004 in Champagne. Chris is a South African, Andrea a Californian, and Chris was working in Bandol, while Andrea was working in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. They'd met briefly the year before, but Champagne really was the start of their story.

Having both worked all over the world, together and apart, in 2007 they started Mullineux in the Swartland, convinced by the potential of the region's old vines.

They started off working with just seven vineyards; they now have more than thirty. But, increasingly involved in the farming, they now have real control over the grapes arriving at the winery. In 2014 they were able to buy the Roundstone farm, where they'd been working with the Syrah since the beginning.

Chenin Blanc makes up the spine of the **Old Vines White**, and it's supported by Grenache Blanc, Macabeo, Verdelho, Clairette Blanche, Semillon Gris, and Viognier. Some of these sites are impressively old, with 65 year old Chenin, and 60 year old Semillon Gris. Even the Viognier, from iron rich soils, is 21 years old. It's a wine where balance is key, and where taut minerality is juxtaposed with a ripe, fruity, core.

The **Syrah** is as true an expression of this grape variety in the Swartland's varied terroirs as you'll find. In 2017, it's a blend of four parcels planted in the stony Shale and Schist based soils of the Kasteelberg; two parcels of dry-land, bush vines grown in the decomposed Granite of the Paardeberg; and one on the rolling, iron-rich soils west of Malmesbury. The vines are aged between 22 and 30 years, and it's a wine that will age impressively.

While these two wines are the backbone of the estate, the pinnacle of their production are the Single Terroir Range of wines, where they make three Chenin Blancs and three Syrahs, from specific soil types.

The **Schist Chenin Blanc** comes from two parcels of 35 and 39 years old, planted in the heart of the Kasteelberg. It gives a structured and intense Chenin, with a core of ripe fruit. Much more taut and nervy is the **Granite Chenin Blanc**, from a 43 year old vineyard on the Paardeberg. This will need some time. And the **Quartz Chenin** sits between the two in style, and comes from a 38 year old vineyard, also on the Kasteelberg.

The **Schist Syrah** comes from the couple's Roundstone property, allowing full control of the farming. These 21 year old vines give a structured, peppery expression of Syrah. The **Granite Syrah** comes again from the Paardeberg, from 24 year old vines, and is incredibly elegant and floral in style, with real focus. From a 19 year old vineyard on the iron-rich soils around Malmesbury, the **Iron Syrah** has a breadth on the palate that's not found on the other wines, and is stunningly aromatic.

The wine that is perhaps receiving the most attention currently is the **Olerasay No.2**, awarded 100 points by Neal Martin. Every year since 2008, they've held back a barrel or two of their Straw Wine, made from the Chenin Blanc grapes that have the best acidity at harvest, from the Kasteelberg, and the Paardeberg. They refresh a solera each year with the new vintage, and this is the just the second time they've bottled a portion. It is spectacular.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Old Vines White, Swartland	£17.50 per btl	£105 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Granite Chenin, Swartland	£44 per btl	£264 per 6	2022 - 2035
2019 Quartz Chenin, Swartland	£44 per btl	£264 per 6	2022 - 2035
2018 Granite Syrah, Swartland	£69 per btl	£414 per 6	2023 - 2040
2018 Schist Syrah, Swartland	£69 per btl	£414 per 6	2023 - 2040
2018 Iron Syrah, Swartland	£69 per btl	£414 per 6	2023 - 2040
Olerasay 2° Straw Wine, Swartland	£54 per half	£324 per 6	2020 - 2045

The Producers



Newton Johnson Family Vineyards Bevan & Gordon Newton-Johnson

@newtonjohnsonvineyards

Dave Johnson had worked on the corporate side of the wine industry since the early 1980s, based in Stellenbosch. But he was the first South African Wine Master to write his thesis on Pinot Noir in the cape: this brought him into contact with Tim Hamilton Russell, the pioneer of the Hemel-en-Aarde.

Alongside his wife Felicity (née Newton), and two sons Gordon & Bevan, they moved to the valley in the 1990s. They'd hoped to follow a negociant model, buying grapes and bottling their own wines, but they couldn't find any good quality grapes to buy. So in 1999 they bought the virgin land for the current estate, started to plant vines in 2003, and 2008 was the first vintage. There are now 19 hectares planted, with eight hectares of Pinot Noir and the rest made up of Chardonnay, Syrah, Grenach, Mourvèdre, and Albariño.

It's now Gordon and his wife Nadia making the wines here, with Bevan looking after all the administrative, marketing, and sales sides of the business.

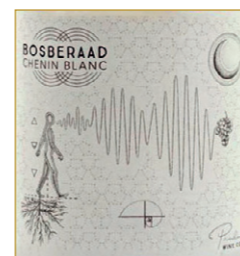
Their **Family Vineyards Pinot Noir** and **Family Vineyards Chardonnay** are the estate's benchmark wines, coming from plots across their plantings, with a variety of soils, expositions, and clones. Indeed, plant material is a key topic here: as Bevan explains, South African wine knowledge was always focussed on Stellenbosch and Paarl, and it's taken time to work out the vine clones that work best in this corner of Africa.

Since 2017, they've also made a couple of single vineyard Pinot Noirs. The **Windansea Pinot Noir** comes from a plot that's visible from the winery, with lots of clay in the soil. It's a deep, dark, structured expression Pinot Noir, that will age brilliantly. And in the coming years they expect to explore the minute differences in their terroir more and more, while protecting the Family Vineyards range.

They describe their winemaking philosophy as, "more and more doing less and less". Whereas twenty years ago it was all about extraction, now the estate has far more natural extraction and fermentation, allowing the terroir to express itself fully.

As Bevan explains, the "biggest asset for any wine region in the world is time". Europe has had hundreds of years to figure out what works best, and while it's important to look at Europe and learn, South Africa needs to apply its own knowledge and expertise over time. It's a philosophy that's serving this estate brilliantly.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Family Vineyards Pinot Noir, Hemel-en-Aarde	£19 per btl	£114 per 6	2022 - 2032
2019 Windansea Pinot Noir, Hemel-en-Aarde	£26.50 per btl	£159 per 6	2023 - 2035
2019 Family Vineyards Chardonnay, Hemel-en-Aarde	£15.50 per btl	£93 per 6	2020 - 2025



Paulus Wine Co.

Pauline Roux & Paul Jourdaan

@pauluswineco

2019 is just the second vintage of the Paulus Wine Co. We're thrilled to have been their exclusive UK importer from the beginning.

It's the brainchild of Paul Jourdaan, winemaker for Eben Sadie at Sadie Family Wines, and Pauline Roux, French winemaker who's worked with Adi Badenhorst among others. They'd both long dreamed of putting their own names on a bottle of wine.

Bosberaad literally means 'bush meeting' in Afrikaans. It refers to the many winemaking decisions that are made in the open air, in the vineyard, the elements that are required to make a great bottle of wine, and Paul and Pauline's commitment that we all need to talk more. They've tried to depict all these elements on the label, and anyone comparing the 2018 and 2019 labels will note that the man depicted has moved a few millimetres forward in 2019 from their debut vintage, reflecting Paul and Pauline's own journey.

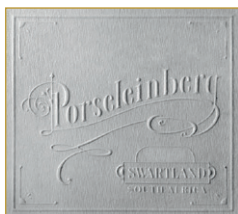
The **2019 Bosberaad Chenin Blanc** is currently their only wine. It comes from the beautiful Waterval farm that borders Adi Badenhorst's property on the Swartland's Paardeberg, farmed lovingly by Franziska Wickens. She's the wife of Jasper Wickens, who used to be Adi's winemaker and was in the same class at university as Paul (and Matt Day, of Klein Constantia - the South African wine trade can sometimes seem a very small place!)

More specifically, it comes from a 0.4hectare vineyard that was planted in 1980, right in the middle of the valley. It's one of the coolest sites on the Paardeberg: running alongside a river bed, here the sun rises late and sets early, yielding a beautiful crisp, precise wine, which is all about subtlety and finesse.

While still minuscule, pleasingly, quantities are slowly increasing. Just 1,200 bottles were produced in 2018, 1,600 in 2019, and 2,000 bottles in 2020. Paul and Pauline are also on the lookout for other grapes, to expand the range. It's a journey we're excited to join them on.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Bosberaad Chenin Blanc	£19 per btl	£114 per 6	2021 - 2028

The Producers



Porseleinberg

Callie Louw

Callie Louw grew up in the Free State, in the heart of South Africa, miles away from any vines. But both his parents were from the Cape, and he grew up with wine on the table - even if, as a teenager, he much preferred drinking beer.

He harboured dreams of becoming a doctor, but in the end found himself studying winemaking in the Cape. His first proper cellar job was with Adi Badenhorst at Rustenberg, when Adi was head winemaker there: they remain incredibly good mates to this day. And in 2005 he headed to the South of France to do a vintage at Lay & Wheeler favourite, Le Soula.

It was working here, alongside Gérard Gauby, that Callie first really understood the importance of the vineyard. He explains that he was having a beer one day with Gérard's son, and saw Gérard pass by on a tractor: he realised that this would be the key part of the job.

Returning to South Africa, Callie worked at Tulbagh Mountain Vineyards, and in 2007, at a tasting in London, Callie stood next to Marc Kent of Boekenhoutskloof. It was the first time they'd met, and the following year they met again, at another tasting in London.

In 2009, Marc gave Callie a call, to tell him he'd bought a mountain in the Swartland, and to find out if he wanted to farm it for him. The mountain was called Porseleinberg, there were currently just one hectare of vines, and the plan was to plant an additional 40 hectares.

Callie jumped at the chance. Now, over a decade on, there are 130 hectares of vines planted across Porseleinberg, and a second Swartland property, Goldmine, which is next door to the Mullineux's farm, Roundstone. They're on track to be certified organic by 2023.

While Callie's main, everyday job is farming these vineyards for Boekenhoutskloof and Chocolate Block, he also makes a single wine from vines that are all planted on the schist that defines the Porseleinberg. As he explains, "if the wine tastes okay, the farming has been okay".

The resulting wine, **Porseleinberg Syrah**, is rather better than 'okay'. It comes from that old, one hectare vineyard, with new additional plots coming on line every year. He makes it as simply as possible: submerging the cap with a contraption he made himself, and using plenty of whole bunch fruit. The resulting wine is one of the Cape's greatest Syrahs: a wine with as clear a sense of a place as you'll find, it sells out immediately on first release.

£ Bottle	Case	Drink
£47.50 per btl	£570 per 12	2023 - 2045

2018 Porseleinberg Syrah



Rall Wines

Donovan Rall

It was while working at Tokara in his final year of university that the gigantic Donovan Rall first met Eben Sadie, and was introduced to the Swartland. He did the 2007 harvest with Eben and Craig Hawkins, before travelling, first to New Zealand to work at Cloudy Bay, before heading to France, to work at Les Caves du Tain in the Northern Rhône.

But when he came back from travelling in 2008, he couldn't find an assistant winemaker's job at a winery or in a place that suited. So with the final few rand in his pocket, he decided to do his own thing. He bought a few grapes, some old barrels, and made a handful of bottles of **Rall White** and **Rall Red**.

He had to be convinced to put his wines up for consideration for Platter's Guide: he still hadn't done so the day before the deadline. But he did, received a maiden five star rating, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Now, twelve years on, he still only makes 25,000 bottles in a big vintage, and the Rall White and Red remain the mainstay of the estate. The **Rall White** is a blend of 68% Chenin, 28% Verdelho and 4% Viognier, with the Verdelho giving incredible vibrancy and freshness. Mainly from the Swartland, some of the Verdelho comes from Stellenbosch. The **Rall Red**, meanwhile, is a blend of 70% Syrah 12% Grenache 10% Carignan and 8% Cinsault, with all the fruit coming from the Swartland. It's southern Rhône in style, with tons of freshness and energy, too.

Donovan also makes a few other, tiny production wines. First produced in 2015, his **Grenache Blanc** comes from 600 - 650m elevation in Ptekenierskloof, and is a taut, elegant expression of the grape. His **Cinsault**, meanwhile, was also first released in the same year, and is a blend of fruit from Swartland, shared with David Sadie, and Darling, from the same vineyard as Duncan Savage's Follow the Line. It's a crunchy red, that has you reaching for another glass.

And the most curious of all, perhaps, is his **Cinsault Blanc**. This is the only example we know of, from anywhere in the world. From a 33 year old, 0.2 hectare vineyard in Wellington, planted with a mutation of Cinsault Noir, just 650 bottles are produced. It's just 11% alcohol, and is bright, vibrant, and delicious.

At the very pinnacle of his production are his **Ava Syrah** and **Ava Chenin Blanc**, named after his young daughter. They come from schist soils, from a farm just outside Riebeeck Kasteel, that Donovan and his team farm themselves. Tiny yields and incredibly hard work account for the higher price point, and the wines are spectacular.

With a brand new daughter in 2020, Noa, we look forward to seeing what he crafts in her honour.

£ Bottle	Case	Drink
£16 per btl	£96 per 6	2020 - 2027
£16 per btl	£96 per 6	2020 - 2027
£19.50 per btl	£117 per 6	2021 - 2031
£31 per btl	£186 per 6	2021 - 2032
£16 per btl	£96 per 6	2021 - 2027
£19.50 per btl	£117 per 6	2021 - 2032
£42 per btl	£252 per 6	2022 - 2035

2019 Grenache Blanc, Swartland

2019 Cinsault Blanc, Swartland

2019 Rall White, Swartland

2019 Ava Chenin Blanc, Swartland

2019 Cinsault, Swartland

2018 Rall Red, Swartland

2019 Ava Syrah, Swartland

The Producers



Richard Kershaw

Richard Kershaw MW

@richardkershawwines

Initially a successful chef, Richard Kershaw subsequently fell in love with wine, and after travelling the world settled in South Africa in 1999. By 2009 he was head winemaker of Mulderbosch and Kanu wines, one of Stellenbosch's most famous names.

He became an MW in 2011, and at this time he decided to start his own winery, becoming just one of ten Masters of Wine worldwide who make their own wine. Fascinated not only by winemaking, but also by terroir, he wanted to focus on a single region and try to understand what made it special. In Richard's view, South Africa had always promoted diversity of styles, but had failed to iterate the regional focus that other new world regions like Australia and Chile had managed.

He could see the potential of Elgin, a cool region, near the ocean with altitude and considerable diurnal shift. And more specifically, he wanted to examine the different sites and soils that could be found there. He moved with his family from Stellenbosch, and began by working with two noble grape varieties that he thought would thrive in Elgin.

The **Clonal Selection Chardonnay** comes from five different clones, planted in nine separate sites throughout Elgin, and is a restrained, mineral expression of the grape. The **Clonal Selection Syrah**, meanwhile, comes from five different sites, and is a reflection of Richard's love of the Northern Rhône – and his belief that the conditions in Elgin are perfectly suited to a cool climate expression of Syrah.

In 2015 he completed the trio, with the **Clonal Selection Pinot Noir**. This comes from just six tiny plots, planted with French clones, and just 6,000 bottles or so are produced.

On an even more micro level, Richard bottles tiny quantities specific clones from specific soil types. This is wine geekery of the highest level, yet this **Deconstructed Range** is anything but overworked; the wines are explicit expressions of terroir that's rare not only in South Africa, but throughout the world.

He's also making wines from outside of Elgin, expanding his horizons under the **GPS Range** of wines. He points out that great winemakers are those that learn from other places, like the Burgundians who have looked to Beaujolais and the Maconnais.

The next project is planting his own vineyards, and building a brand new cellar. It's clear that Richard is one of the most thoughtful, knowledgeable winemakers in the Cape. His wines speak with a clarity and purity that's hard to find elsewhere.

2018 Clonal Selection Chardonnay

2018 Clonal Selection Pinot Noir

2017 Clonal Selection Syrah

£ Bottle Case Drink

The new wines from Richard Kershaw will be released early in 2021



Restless River

Craig & Anne Wessels

@restlessrivervineyards

When Craig and Anne Wessels bought a plot of land in the Hemel-en-Aarde valley in 2004, they had no intention of building a wine business. Rather, they were looking for somewhere to bring up their kids, outside of the city, and close to the ocean.

There were a few vines on the property, and in a small converted garage, they started to produce wines, initially just for personal consumption. But Craig doesn't do anything by halves. Already the owner of a successful design and animation agency, and at various points a collector of cars, motorbikes, and helicopters, he was quickly producing more than the family could keep up with. So in 2012 they released their first wines, from the 2008 and 2009 vintages.

Craig had fallen in love with farming the estate, and this connection to the estate's vineyards gives the wines their names, as well as their characters. He's the only person in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley to take Cabernet Sauvignon seriously, and from it, he's producing one of South Africa's finest, most striking examples.

The **Main Road and Dignity Cabernet Sauvignon** comes from two vineyards, planted 21 years ago. Just 5km from the ocean, and at 1,200 feet elevation, this is one of the coolest spots in the Cape's winelands. And that results in an elegant, pure, unique style of South African Cabernet. Here, Craig's been known to harvest grapes as late as May: that's the equivalent of November in the Northern Hemisphere. And with baboons and birds seeking out the final grapes on vines in the valley, the yields are pitifully small. But the wine is remarkable: already a Cape cult classic.

More typical from the Hemel-en-Aarde is his **Ava Marie Chardonnay**, also made from vines that were first planted 21 years ago, and named after Anne and Craig's daughter. Incredibly Burgundian in style, the granite soils here give taut minerality and restraint, while the finish on the wine is astonishingly long.

The latest addition to the range is another Hemel-en-Aarde staple, **Le Luc Pinot Noir**, named after their son. It's from a granite and clay site, in the heart of the slope, and is now really finding its feet. It's a floral, precise expression of Pinot Noir: as you'd expect from tasting the other wines here.

Craig never sits still, and is currently on a planting mission on the estate. Last year they planted three hectares, this year four hectares, and next year a few more. Craig has now given up his other career in advertising, and spends 90% of his time farming: this is what gets him up in the morning. He's planning for the next generation, looking at sustainability and quality of supply.

But a restless soul, he's always got half an eye on the outside. And that led to the **Wanderlust** range of wines, made in tiny quantities from bought-in-fruit. This year there are just 2,500 bottles of a blend of Pinotage and Pinot Noir, that will challenge what you've ever thought about South Africa's enigmatic grape. As always with Craig, there's no half measures: the Restless River wines have to be tried to be believed.

£ Bottle Case Drink

2018 Ava Marie Chardonnay, Hemel-en-Aarde	£30 per btl	£180 per 6	2021 - 2031
2018 Le Luc Pinot Noir, Hemel-en-Aarde	£30 per btl	£180 per 6	2021 - 2033
2019 Wanderlust Pinotage, Hemel-en-Aarde	£30 per btl	£180 per 6	2021 - 2030
2017 Main Road & Dignity Cabernet Sauvignon, Hemel-en-Aarde	£40 per btl	£240 per 6	2022 - 2037

The Producers



Reyneke
Johan Reyneke
 @reynekewines

Johan Reyneke is one of the South African wine scene's most fascinating characters, as well as one of the most respected by his peers.

The son of a Cape Town University professor, Johan was studying law when he fell in love with philosophy and with environmental ethics. He worked as a farm labourer while he was studying for a masters, and both his studies and his work led him to realise that there was a disconnect between the people and the land they were working.

So when he returned to the family farm in Stellenbosch, Uitzicht, overlooking False Bay, he took with him ideas on farming, and on people's role in the natural environment. But his first experiments with organic farming were disastrous: he tried to change too much, too quickly. Fortunately, little by little, his actions started making a difference, and in a few years he'd started to get the balance right in the vineyards.

Johan began to consult for Vinimark, who also own Boekenhouts Kloof, and in turn they invested in the Reyneke brand. And Johan was able to grow the farm from 20hectares of vineyards, to 120hectares today, farmed organically and biodynamically. And Johan's sense of duty stretches beyond the vineyards, and into the homes of the workers on the farm. If they work for Reyneke for ten years, they'll be built a house, while the estate pays for the children of workers to go to university.

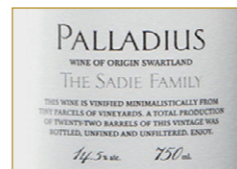
The pinnacle of the estate's wines are the Reserve range. These come from single plots within the vineyards, and aren't made every year: the Cabernet, for example, has only been made four times in 20 years.

The **Reserve White** is a Sauvignon Blanc, that's vinified and aged in 95% new French oak barrels. It's as serious as this grape variety gets: it astonishes with its texture, depth, and length. The **Reserve Red** is 100% Syrah, from a south-east facing block on the farm. It's a peppery, nervy Syrah, with tons of finesse. Meanwhile, the **Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon** is the result of a berry by berry selection, also from a cool, south east facing slope on the farm. This is a truly spectacular Stellenbosch Cabernet: in a decade, this will be a match for Bordeaux's greatest names.

For many wineries, a focus on the vineyards is little more than marketing speak. But for Johan, they really are his life: it's no wonder that this year he was named Grower of the Year by Tim Atkin MW in his South Africa report. Talking to Johan's peers, it's clear just how well-deserved this accolade is.

	🍷 Bottle	🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2018 Reserve White, Stellenbosch	£19 per btl	£114 per 6	2021 - 2030
2018 Syrah, Stellenbosch	£12 per btl	£72 per 6	2021 - 2032
2017 Reserve Red, Stellenbosch	£31 per btl	£186 per 6	2022 - 2035
2017 Reserve Cabernet, Stellenbosch	£45 per btl	£270 per 6	2022 - 2038





Sadie Family Wines

Eben Sadie

Eben Sadie's name is synonymous with South Africa's development into a serious fine wine region.

He's been making quality focussed wines in small quantities for over twenty years now, under the Sadie Family Wines label.

He's from a small town on the Swartland coast, and with the support and encouragement of his dad, he studied agriculture.

At university he met Marc Kent (of Boekenhoutskloof fame), who was already into fine wine: they shared bottles and knowledge, and Eben became more and more convinced of his future. He worked for four years in a cooperative, before being made winemaker at Spice Route, the first new private winery, in the Swartland in 1997.

Eben realised he needed to work solely for himself. And in 2001 he set out on his own, having already made two vintages under the Sadie Family Wines label. But he's never stopped learning from others. As he puts it, "if you want to be good at tennis, you need to practise with good players". And Eben's search for knowledge is more thorough and complete than anyone else we know. He's now undertaken 25 vintages in South Africa, and 19 in Europe, including owning his own Priorat estate. But his roots are in the Swartland. And that's where his, and his family's, future lies.

Eben wants his signature wines to be "true inhabitants of the land", reflecting their Swartland origins. When **Columella** started in 2000, it was a blend of Syrah and Mourvèdre. But that has now evolved into a blend of six of the seven official grape varieties of the Swartland, adding Grenache, Carignan, Cinsault, and Tinta Barocca (the only missing variety is Pinotage - in Eben's words, "a grape that was made by man").

And the white equivalent is **Palladius**. It's a blend of all eleven official Swartland white varieties, and comes from seventeen different vineyards across the region, mainly on the Paardeberg. Both these wines are ambassadors for Swartland, for its mediterranean climate, and for what Eben and his team are doing.

If the signature wines are aiming to capture the Swartland in its entirety, the Old Vine Series, or "Die Ouwingerdreeks" in Afrikaans, is focussed on capturing specific parcels of historic wines in the Cape.

Made from parcels of Chenin Blanc bush vines on the decomposed sandy soils of the **Skurfberg**, the wine that takes this mountain's name comes from plots that were planted in the mid 20th century. The other pure Chenin in the range, the **Mev Kirsten**, is the oldest vineyard of this grape in the Cape. Found in the Jonkershoek Valley of Stellenbosch, much of the plot was planted in the 1920s, and takes its name from the owner, Mrs Kirsten.

Also with a considerable proportion of Chenin, in this case blended 50:50 with Palomino, is the **Skerpioen**. It comes from a rare thing in South Africa: a vineyard planted on pure limestone, just 2km from the ocean, planted between 1958 and 1967. The **Kokerboom** vineyard, meanwhile, is some four and a half hours north of the winery, making picking it a real logistical challenge. It's a Semillon (known as green grape in Afrikaans) plot, planted in the 1930s, and is a mix of both the green and red mutations of the variety.

For Eben Sadie, Tinta Barocca might be the best suited red variety for reflecting the Swartland's terroir. And this, the **Treinspoor**, from a vineyard planted in iron rich soils in 1974, is possibly the Cape's greatest iteration. It takes its name from the trainline that runs alongside the vineyard. The **Soldaat** Grenache vineyard, meanwhile, is at high altitude in Piekenierskloof, and that allows the grapes to ripe fully, thanks to plenty of sun, but retain freshness, thanks to the 700m plus elevation. The vines are now 55 years old.

Finally, **Pofadder** is Eben's ode to the Cinsault grape, from a 1973-planted vineyard on iron-rich slate soils on the Kasteelberg, in the heart of the Swartland. This is a complex, ageworthy wine: as good as Cinsault gets.

Eben's future plans can be summed up in one word: farming. He's now retired from the winemaking, handing over to Paul Jourdaan (also of Paulus Wine Company). Eben's focussing not only on better farming the vineyards they already have, but also on planting new plots, including vineyards on the west coast, where the limestone soils bring acidity.

In doing so, he's protecting his legacy, and looking to pass something valuable on to his children. If he wasn't already South Africa's benchmark fine wine producer, with this vision it's clear that he is now.

Sadie Family Wines will be released later this year.

The Producers



Saurwein

Jessica Saurwein

Jessica Saurwein's winemaking heritage is alluded to by her name: her Austrian forefathers made 'sour wine' for the Austrian court. Fortunately her wines are anything but sour: made from her two favourite grape varieties, Pinot Noir and Riesling, these show the elegant side of South Africa off wonderfully.

Jessica grew up in a wine-drinking household, where there was always a bottle open on the table at mealtimes. And so she decided she wanted to study viticulture at university, but beforehand she worked in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and in Tulbagh during her gap year.

When she left university she ended up working in sales and marketing, for, among others, Klein Constantia, but the urge to make her own wine was too much to ignore.

In 2015 she started with the **Nom Pinot Noir**. It comes from Kaaimansgat Vineyard in Elandskloof, the same plot that Peter-Allan Finlayson's Malabel comes from. Indeed, it was Peter-Allan who originally planted the plot in 2008. The vineyard is at 700m of altitude, but the property, which is mostly planted with apple trees, goes even higher. On the peaks that surround the vineyard, there used to be snow every month of the year other than January. Nom stands for nombulelo (gratitude in "Xhosa") and Nomkhubulwane (a forgotten African goddess of agriculture), and the stunning label was designed by Isabella Kuijers.

In 2017, having had her first child, she gave up her day job to concentrate on Saurwein, and on being a mother.

In 2018 she added two other wines. The **Om Pinot Noir** comes from a vineyard planted on the Hemel-en-Aarde ridge in 2006, just 12km from the sea, at 300m of altitude. Here, the soils are granitic with plenty of clay, and the resulting wine is more savoury and earthy than the perfume of the Nom. For Jessica, Om symbolises the concept of universal creation, while the word is also synonymous with peace.

Meanwhile her **Chi Riesling** is from the cool region of Elgin, and reflects Jessica's love for all things Mosel. Indeed, the soils here, at 300m of altitude and 10km from the ocean, are red slate, just like the hillsides above Urzig. It's slightly off-dry (although in German classifications it would be classed as dry), and is a pure, savoury Riesling that's simply delicious. Chi means 'life force', reflecting the energy Jessica seeks in her Riesling, and also refers to Chiuta, the African rain god: Elgin is the wettest part of the Cape.

In common with many of South Africa's new wave, Jessica is now looking for a little land of her own, probably in the Hemel-en-Aarde. This is definitely a small winery that's worth following over the next few years.

	£ Bottle	£ Case	Drink
2020 Chi Riesling	£16.50 per btl	£99 per 6	2020 - 2030
2019 Om Pinot Noir	£30 per btl	£180 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Nom Pinot Noir	£30 per btl	£180 per 6	2021 - 2030



Savage Wines

Duncan Savage

@savagewines

When Duncan Savage left university he feared getting a job far inland, in a place like Tulbagh. He loves drinking (and making) great wine, and surfing, so landing a job at Cape Point was perfect. He went on to spend 14 vintages there.

But Duncan wasn't satisfied solely making wines for someone else. He started making his own wines in 2011, and by 2016 he'd left Cape Point Vineyards He's now based in warehouse in Salt River, a neighbourhood of Cape Town that Duncan insists is up-and-coming, and having his own space, combined with an increased focus on farming the vineyards that he buys grapes from, has seen a huge jump in the quality of Duncan's wines: they're now some of South Africa's most sought after bottlings.

When he started his own brand, he was adamant he only wanted to make two wines, a red and a white. The **Savage Red** started as a blend of Syrah, Grenache and Cinsault. But now it's morphed into 100% Syrah, all from the same Stellenbosch vineyard. While historically this vineyard was poorly farmed, it's now seeing biodynamic treatments, and the work seems to be paying off: the 2018 is quite possibly the best yet.

The **Savage White** remains as Cape White Blend. A mix of 64% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Semillon and 16% Chenin Blanc, with fruit from Kaaimansgat, Villiersdorp, Piekenierskloof and Stellenbosch, it's a wine that's all about texture and finesse.

But as with all best laid plans, Duncan quickly found that he was discovering parcels of interesting vines and grapes, but that they didn't fit into the red and white parameters. So he started bottling them on their own.

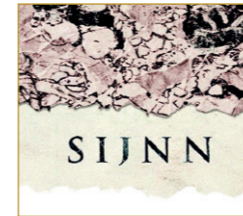
Follow the Line was the first of these bottlings, and is Duncan's Cinsault, that's quickly gained an almost cult following. From south-east facing old bush vines that are almost 40 years old, the wind and heat here mean that picking date is key, and a drop of Syrah in the blend adds depth and structure. This will be an impressively ageworthy Cinsault.

Arguably Duncan's most sought after wine, predominantly because of the miniscule quantity produced, **The Girl Next Door** comes from a 0.38 hectare plot of Syrah vines planted in the housing compound where Duncan lives in Fish Hoek, just outside Cape Town. Originally planted purely for decorative purposes, Duncan has been coaxing it back to life, weaning it off water, and farming it organically. Already impressive, he reckons it's still a few years from its best. But good luck finding any then!

The Thief in the Night is around 61% Grenache, with the rest made up of 26% Cinsault and 13% Syrah. Duncan had hoped for it to be closer to 80% Grenache, but the drought seriously reduced yields. It comes from Piekenierskloof, with the Grenache coming from the same vineyard as Eben Sadie's Soldaat. Here, at 550m elevation on sandstone soils, the wine maintains stunning energy alongside perfect ripeness.

Arguably the least imaginative of Duncan's wine names, **Are we there yet?** comes from Malgas, way distant from the Cape's heartlands, and from the Sijnn vineyards. The first time Duncan visited David Trafford's project out here, he was blown away. He asked if he could buy a few grapes, and this is the result: a blend of 50% Syrah and 50% Touriga Nacional from 14 year old bush vines, that reflects the wildness of the place.

	£ Bottle	£ Case	Drink
2020 Salt River Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape	£11 per btl	£66 per 6	2020 - 2026
2019 Savage White, Western Cape	£21.50 per btl	£129 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Follow the Line, Western Cape	£21.50 per btl	£129 per 6	2021 - 2026
2019 Thief In The Night	£21.50 per btl	£129 per 6	2021 - 2032
2019 Are We There Yet?	£21.50 per btl	£129 per 6	2021 - 2032
2018 Savage Red, Western Cape	£21.50 per btl	£129 per 6	2022 - 2035
2019 Girl Next Door	£28 per btl	£168 per 6	2022 - 2032



Sijnn
Charla Bosman

@sijnnwines

Driving to Sijnn, it feels like a totally different world from the manicured vineyards and Dutch-gabled manor houses of the Cape winelands.

And that's because it is. A 40km drive down an unpaved track, this was the first vineyard planted in the Malgas appellation, far to the east of Cape Town.

David and Rita Trafford, of de Trafford in Stellenbosch, were holidaying here in 2000, when they found that the place and the soils really reminded them of the Douro valley in Portugal. In 2003 they were able to purchase a 125 hectare farm, and after countless soil tests, they planted their first 12 hectares of vineyards in 2004.

Here, just 15km from the ocean, and right by the Breede river (Sijnn, pronounced Sane means riverbank in Khoisan) winds blow across the vineyard every afternoon moderating temperature, but extremely low rainfall necessitates bush vines, and careful selection of grape varieties.

The first vintage was 2007, made at de Trafford and Keermont's winery in Stellenbosch, while the new winery was constructed in 2013. And since 2014 Charla Bosman has been the winemaker here. Young, energetic, and supremely talented, she's had a huge impact on the wines: they're elegant and finessed, and with real soul.

The **Sijnn Red** is a field blend of Syrah, Mourvèdre, Touriga Nacional and Trincadeira, and is a wine that shows its warm origins, without any sense of jamminess or heaviness. There's a stunning baked earth character, a finish that lasts an age. This is a brilliant Mediterranean red blend, that's a match for anything being made in the Swartland.

The **Sijnn White** meanwhile, is a blend of 70% Chenin Blanc, 17% Viognier and 13% Roussanne, and is a wine that's all about texture and palate weight. Charla manages to keep the acidity here beautifully: this remains chiselled and impressively long.

And for an introduction to the estate, look no further than the **Low Profile**. Essentially a second wine of the estate, it's a blend of Shiraz with 51% Touriga Nacional, Tinta Amarella, Cabernet Sauvignon and Mourvèdre. Here, the tannins are a little softer, and it's a little more approachable than its bigger brother. But don't dismiss it: it's absolutely delicious.

It's clear that every year, Charla and her team understand the terroir of this Cape outpost more and more. This is an exciting project, to drink and enjoy.

	🍷 Bottle	🍷🍷 Case	🍷 Drink
2018 Sijnn White, Malgas	£15 per btl	£180 per 12	2020 - 2028
2018 Low Profile, Malgas	£10 per btl	£120 per 12	2020 - 2030
2016 Sijnn Red, Malgas	£21.50 per btl	£129 per 6	2020 - 2030

The Producers



Storm Wines

Hannes Storm

@stormwinessa

Hannes Storm's experience in the Hemel-en-Aarde valley began in 2000, when he undertook his university practical experience at Hamilton-Russell. He returned the following year, and from 2001 to 2002 he was assistant winemaker, before doing 10 vintages as head winemaker.

But by 2012 he was ready to do his own thing. In 2008 he'd helped plant a vineyard in the Upper Hemel-en-Aarde vineyard, and in 2014 he released his first wine, from the 2012 vintage from this plot, called Vrede.

There are now five wines in the stable, with three Pinot Noirs and two Chardonnays, that come from seven hectares of vineyards, all farmed organically by Hannes and his five vineyard workers. Hannes is incredibly hands on in the vines, spending 90% of his time there: he jokes that he knows every bunch by name.

In 2009, the Hemel-en-Aarde valley was split into three separate wards, or appellations, and Hannes makes a Pinot Noir from each, and a Chardonnay from two. The **Vrede Pinot Noir** and the **Vrede Chardonnay** come from the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, at 150m elevation and just 1.4km from the sea, and a north facing site. This is the warmest site Hannes works, and Pinots from here are spicy and structured.

Ignis Pinot Noir is from the Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, and is 2km further inland, and 100m higher in elevation. Here the soil is totally different, with plenty of quartz, decomposed granite, and just enough clay to give a textured element. It's the most perfumed, fragrant of Hannes' wines.

The Ridge vineyard is the youngest vineyard Hannes works with, from the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge ward, and is the source of the **Ridge Pinot Noir**, and from 2019 the **Ridge Chardonnay**. Here there are the same soils as in Vrede, but with an east-facing slope, and at 330m above sea level, the wine is much cooler and more savoury, with the harvest undertaken some 25 days later.

With clear definition between each wine, an almost obsessive approach to the vineyards, and a hands-off approach in the cellar, Hannes' are wines that show his love of Burgundy. His Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays are not overt, but impress with their finesse and purity. His Chardonnays, too, are some of the Cape's most impressive whites, and are all about texture and minerality.

And while Hannes makes wines that are approachable on first release, he believes that there's a tendency to drink wines too young. What is clear is that his will stand the test of time: anyone with the patience to resist their upfront sensuality and purity will be richly rewarded.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Vrede Chardonnay	£25 per btl	£150 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Ridge Chardonnay	£25 per btl	£150 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Ignis Pinot Noir	£25 per btl	£150 per 6	2022 - 2035
2019 Vrede Pinot Noir	£25 per btl	£150 per 6	2022 - 2035
2019 Ridge Pinot Noir	£25 per btl	£150 per 6	2022 - 2035



Tesselaarsdal

Berene Sauls

@tesselaarsdalwines

Berene Sauls route to the top tier of South Africa's wine producers is rather different from most. She first started working for Anthony Hamilton Russell at his eponymous Hemel-en-Aarde estate in 2001 at the age of 19. But rather than a job on the wine side of the business, Berene was first employed as an au pair.

She soon became involved in the everyday administration of the winery, with everything from bottling to export documentation. And she found herself becoming more and more fascinated by the wine itself, and the culture surrounding it. After almost fifteen years of immersion, and with the support of Anthony and the Hamilton Russell winemaker, Emul Ross, Berene was able to launch her own label in 2015.

She grew up in the small village of Tesselaarsdal, around 25km north east of the Hemel-en-Aarde valley. Here, an East India Company settler, Johannes Tesselaar, bequeathed his land to his freed slaves upon his death in 1810. Berene's family have been based in the village ever since. Indeed, if you look at her beautiful label, there are two women walking across the scene: Berene and her grandmother. And to make Tesselaarsdal more than just a story, but part of the everyday makeup of the wine, the long term plan is to have productive vines in this corner of the Overberg region.

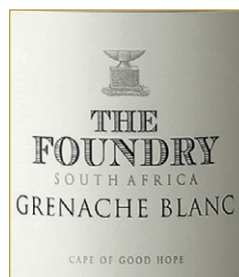
In the meantime, Berene is making two wines from grapes from the Hemel-en-Aarde. The **Tesselaarsdal Pinot Noir** was first produced in 2015, and comes from unirrigated vines planted on the clay, iron, and schist heavy soils of the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge. It's a stunningly pure Pinot Noir, with notes of blood orange and pomegranate, alongside a core of fruit.

Meanwhile, the **Tesselaarsdal Chardonnay** comes from a 12 year old vineyard on the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, and is then aged in amphora and in French barriques. It's a mineral, textured Chardonnay that's downright delicious.

Making wines like this, it's clear that Tesselaarsdal is a producer that's worthy of close attention: it's so much more than just a brilliant story.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Chardonnay, Hemel-en-Aarde	£21 per btl	£126 per 6	2020 - 2025
2019 Pinot Noir, Hemel-en-Aarde	£30 per btl	£180 per 6	2021 - 2034

The Producers



The Foundry

Chris Williams

@thefoundry_wines

Chris Williams graduated from Elsenberg in 1994, the year of South Africa's first democratic elections. And no one has been better placed to see the development of South Africa's wine scene since then.

Chris has, until last year, worn two hats: he was head winemaker at Meerlust, as established and historic a producer as South Africa has. But he also has his own label, The Foundry, that he started in the year 2000 alongside James Reid, an Englishman who'd gone out to South Africa in 1995 on his gap year, fallen in love with a South African, and had never left.

Chris worked for Meerlust from 1995 to 2000, and returned in 2004 as head winemaker. But in 2019, he left Meerlust for good to concentrate on The Foundry full time, and has now installed himself on James' Voor Paardeberg farm, where the wines will be made from the 2020 vintage.

Chris' passion is Rhône varieties. He travelled to the region in 1994 with Marc Kent of Boekenhoutskloof and Eben Sadie, and Northern Rhône Syrah, together with grape varieties he'd never heard of, had a huge impact on him.

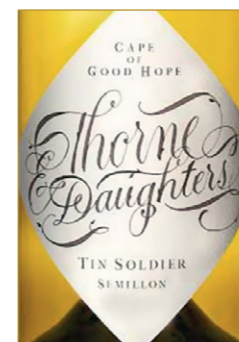
The wine that really put The Foundry on the map for our customers was his **Grenache Blanc**: South Africa's respected Platter's Guide named the 2015 their White Wine of the Year, and it remains one of the best value wines in our range. It comes from a 2005-planted vineyard on the Voor Paardeberg, next door to James' farm.

His **Viognier**, meanwhile, is one of South Africa's finest. It comes from the farm next door to Meerlust in Stellenbosch, from a cool, maritime site. And that makes it a savoury, restrained example: more akin to top Condrieu than most of South Africa's rich, jammy examples.

And while many of the New Wave have only a few vintages under their belt, The Foundry has been going for twenty. And that means we can secure a parcel of his brilliant **2007 Syrah**, that gives a real-life demonstration of these wines' ability to age.

Now with his attention focussed fully on The Foundry, Chris has big plans. He's looking to secure his supply, working more and more with the growers he buys his grapes off. And he wants to start looking at making wines from non-Rhone varieties, as well as looking at different fermentation vessels, like amphorae and eggs. Now in his 50th year, it's clear that Chris isn't standing still.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2020 Grenache Blanc	£9 per btl	£54 per 6	2020 - 2026
2019 Viognier	£9 per btl	£54 per 6	2020 - 2024
2007 Syrah	£18.50 per btl	£111 per 6	2020 - 2025



Thorne & Daughters

John & Tasha Seccombe

@thorneanddaughters

In the seven years since starting Thorne & Daughters, John Seccombe has lifted this estate to the very top of South Africa's tree. Now, with wife Tasha on board, it's an exciting journey to follow.

But John got into wine via a slightly circuitous route, that includes England's South Downs. He'd started at university as a medical student, but quickly swapped to a commerce degree. While he was trying to get to the end of this, he worked at Ken Forrester's restaurant three nights a week to help make ends meet. And this is where he really got into wine.

After his degree he moved to Oxford in the UK with Tasha. Thanks to Dave Johnson of Newton Johnson, Tasha's godfather, he was able to work the 2002 harvest back in South Africa, before working in Australia and France.

John ended up studying winemaking at Plumpton in Sussex, while working at Ridgeview on the South Downs a couple of times a week. When Tasha got pregnant in 2009 they headed back to South Africa, where he worked at Thelema, Iona, and Domaine des Dieux, before starting Thorne & Daughters in 2012, with the first vintage 2013.

The first wine he made was the **Rocking Horse Cape White**. Time spent in the South of France had given John a love for the white blends from the Mediterranean. He set about making a Cape white, that would showcase these grape varieties, but maintain tension and drive. It's a blend of Roussanne, Semillon, Chenin, Chardonnay and Clairette, from a mix of older and younger vineyards, situated across the Cape. This is a wine that's all about texture and finesse, rather than upfront fruit.

A lover of the Semillon grape, John makes two wines from two mutations of the grape, from the same farm on the Paardeberg. The former, **Paper Kite**, comes from a 0.75 hectare plot planted in 1963, and is a blend of Semillon Blanc and Semillon Gris. **Tin Soldier**, meanwhile, is 100% Semillon Gris from a vineyard propagated from cuttings from the Paper Kite vineyard, and planted just seven years ago. It's fermented on the skins, and is copper-coloured and stunningly complex.

The **Cat's Cradle Chenin Blanc** comes from a forty year old Chenin Blanc vineyard farmed by the Roussouw family on the decomposed granite of the Paadeberg. It's a taut, textured Chenin, that's more about subtlety than upfront fruit.

The newest white in John's range is **Snakes and Ladders**: an astonishing Sauvignon Blanc from the Skurffberg. John found out about the vineyard from Chris Alheit: when Chris mentioned it, he assumed he meant Chenin, as it's from the same farm as Magnetic North. In fact, it's a parcel of 27 year old Sauvignon vines that produces minuscule yields.

And John also makes a couple of reds. The first, the **Wanderer's Heart**, is a blend based on Grenache, with some old vine Mourvèdre and Syrah, that gets better every year. And from this year we're offering the **Copper Pot Pinot Noir**, which comes from five different sources in the Overberg region. In common with his other wines, it's a wine that's all about subtlety and finesse, that's a joy to drink.

	£ Bottle	Case	Drink
2019 Rocking Horse Cape White, Western Cape	£17.50 per btl	£105 per 6	2021 - 2029
2019 Tin Soldier Semillon, Western Cape	£21 per btl	£126 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Cat's Cradle Chenin Blanc, Swartland	£22 per btl	£132 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Paper Kite Semillon, Western Cape	£23 per btl	£138 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Snakes & Ladders Sauvignon Blanc, Swartland	£23 per btl	£138 per 6	2021 - 2030
2019 Copper Pot Pinot Noir	£15 per btl	£90 per 6	2022 - 2031
2019 Wanderer's Heart, Western Cape	£17.50 per btl	£105 per 6	2021 - 2030

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