



THE SANDS
@ S t F r a n c i s
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
ST FRANCIS BAY - SOUTH AFRICA
Our Wine List

Diners Club Platinum Award Winner: 2022, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

DINERS CLUB WINE LIST RATING AND AWARDS

A Diners Club Winelist Award recognises the planning, passion and thought that the restaurant has put into creating a wine list that compliments its menu. This recognition is prestigious for the restaurant and an invitation to their patrons to sit back and enjoy a beautiful pairing of fine wines and food.



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HOW TO TASTE WINE

Tasting wine should always be fun and should never be taken too seriously, but you can make it more enjoyable by having a better understanding of what you should be looking for?

LOOK



Have a look at your glass and judge the colour and clarity of the wine. Is it vibrant or dull? Cloudy or clear? What colours can you detect? Tilt the glass and look at the edge of the wine, can you detect a tinge of another colour?

SMELL



Give your glass a good swirl and stick your nose inside. Think about the different aromas you're taking in, do you smell berries, oak, flowers or a combination of all three? How many different aromas complex and interesting or simple and dull? Most importantly, are the aromas pleasant?

TASTE



Sip your glass of wine. What mouthfeel sensations can you detect? How long does the flavour last? How intense is the flavour? Do you taste the wine over your whole mouth or are there gaps? Is the wine balanced or does something stick out? Is the wine complex or simple?

REPEAT

Judge the wine over a whole glass, not just one sip. Let it evolve and tell its story.

AGE

You can tell a lot about a wine's age by looking at the colour. Older red wines have more brown and orange hues compared to younger reds. Older whites are generally darker and more golden compared to younger whites.

AROMA & FLAVOUR

All the flavours you enjoy are the aromas in the wine. When tasting wine you should try and identify the different types of aromas that are present and before long you will begin to learn the different types of aromas that you enjoy the most.

TASTE SENSATIONS

When you taste a wine you are looking for the different taste sensations caused by the wine. The different components should be balanced.

Astringency is the sensation that causes the moisture to be sucked out of your lips giving a puckering sensation. Tannin in red wines can cause astringency.

Residual sugar relates to the amount of sugar in a wine and can be detected on the tip of your tongue. A wine high in residual sugar causes a hot sensation on the tip of your tongue.

Alcohol can be detected on the middle of your tongue. A wine with unbalanced or high alcohol will cause a hot sensation in the middle of your tongue.

Acidity can be felt in the sides of your mouth. Wines that are high in acidity give a tart sensation, much like biting into a lemon.

When tasting wine you should also look at the complexity and length of flavour of the wine. Complexity refers to the number of different aromas and sensations you experience.

The best wines are highly complex, with each taste you find something new that keeps you coming back for more. To judge length of flavour, after you swallow the wine wait a short period of time and see if the flavour is still in your mouth. The best wines have fantastic length of flavour that lingers long after the wine has gone.

Source: www.ninety9bottles.com.au



WINE AND FOOD PAIRING RECOMMENDATIONS

Seafood

<i>Prawns</i>	<i>Sauvignon Blanc / Chardonnay / Chenin Blanc</i>
<i>Oysters</i>	<i>Champagne / Sparkling Wine / Chardonnay</i>
<i>Crayfish</i>	<i>Chardonnay / Semillon</i>
<i>Line Fish</i>	<i>Chardonnay / Semillon / Weisser Riesling / Chenin Blanc</i>
<i>Game Fish (Tuna, Marlin)</i>	<i>Pinot Noir / Zinfandel / Viognier</i>
<i>Calamari</i>	<i>Sauvignon Blanc / Pinot Grigio / Chenin Blanc</i>
<i>Fish Stew / Bouillabaisse</i>	<i>Pinot Grigio / Pinot Noir / Sangiovese</i>
<i>Paella</i>	<i>Rosé / Chenin Blanc</i>
<i>Mussels</i>	<i>Semillon / Chenin Blanc</i>

Poultry

<i>Chicken</i>	<i>Dry Rosé / Chardonnay / Viognier</i>
<i>Coq Au Vin</i>	<i>Pinot Noir / Pinotage / Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
<i>Quail</i>	<i>Merlot / Sangiovese / Pinot Noir</i>
<i>Duck</i>	<i>Weisser Riesling / Pinot Noir / Merlot / Shiraz</i>

Beef

Cabernet Sauvignon / Red Blends / Merlot / Petit Verdot / Malbec

Lamb

Cabernet Sauvignon / Shiraz / Pinotage / Red Blends

Pork

Wooded Chenin Blanc / Weisser Riesling / Chardonnay / Pinotage

Veal

Bordeaux Blend / Chardonnay / Pinot Grigio / Pinot Noir

Venison

Pinotage / Shiraz / Mourvedre / Rhone Blends

Dessert

<i>Hot</i>	<i>Port / Red Muscadel</i>
<i>Cold</i>	<i>Noble Late Harvest / White Muscadel / Special Late Harvest</i>

INSTANT ONLINE ACCESS TO WINE INFORMATION

Platter's vintages, producers and wine styles can be accessed on an iPhone and Android via the App Store and Google Play.



“Language is wine upon the lips” - Virginia Woolf



Star rating courtesy of John Platter South African Wines Guide to Cellars, Vineyards and Winemakers.

*****	Superlative. A classic
****(*)	Outstanding, Fine International Standard
****	Excellent
***(*)	Very Good, Promising
***	Characterful, Appealing
**(*)	Good, Everyday drinking
**	Pleasant drinking
()	Casual quaffing
🍷	Garagiste - defined by a winemaker who creates fine limited production wines

RECENT CAPE VINTAGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY - FROM PLATTERS SOUTH AFRICAN WINE GUIDE 2022

- 2022 The 2022 harvest started later than normal due to a cool growing season. The crop was smaller than in 2021, but still above average for the region. Wine quality seems promising and consumers can expect outstanding red wines
- 2021 A bumper crop, lauded as “exceptional” for reds and whites thanks to cool temperatures, unusually high rain fall and a late harvest, which helped ease stock holding pressure caused by 2020’s ban on exports and restrictions on local sales.
- 2020 Weather conditions were favorable in general and the bunch numbers looked promising early in the season, but windy conditions during the set and sensitive berry growth stages resulted in smaller berries and a lighter crop. The season was also characterized by great variation between and even within the same vineyard blocks in areas that experienced dry conditions.
- 2019 Again the draught affected the yields and on top of it some farmers experienced high winds in October, during bud-break, which caused a considerable loss of crop. Uneven ripening of the bunches meant extra work in the cellar, but overall the grape producers were happy with the quality of the grapes.
- 2018 Wine grape producers and cellars in South Africa were positive about the quality of the wines from the 2018 harvest, despite challenging conditions resulting in one of the smallest crops in more than a decade.
- 2017 The South African harvest is slightly larger than last year following a dry season. Dry conditions resulted in healthy vineyards and good flavour concentration.
- 2016 Despite challenging climate conditions and a significantly smaller crop, good quality wines produced and better harvest than expected.
- 2015 Rated as the Vintage of the century. High yields and quality fruits.
- 2014 Later, slightly smaller and unusually cool, among wettest pre-seasons in years. Seemingly lighter, less powerful wines; potential for fine concentration and elegance if picked judiciously.
- 2013 Biggest crop to date, moderate conditions yielded good to very good reds and whites, lighter alcohol levels
- 2012 Unusually dry, hot January strained unirrigated vineyards; otherwise good to very good vintage for both reds and whites with lighter alcohol levels.
- 2011 Yet more variable than the last, impossible to generalise. As in 2010, producers track record should guide the buying and cellaring decision.
- 2010 A real test of the winegrowers savvy, and one of the toughest recent harvests to call. Be guided by producers track record.
- 2009 Perhaps one of the greatest vintages. Late, gruelling, but whites and reds both stellar.
- 2008 Long, wet, late and challenging but also unusually cool, favouring elegance in both reds and whites.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SUPPLIED WITH EACH WINE

- Vintage year** The actual year of harvesting is indicated next to the name of the wine. Non Vintage means that the wine is a combination of harvests
- Character Description** To assist selection, each wine has a character that will highlight the style of the wine: ie, dry. An overview of the wine and it's characteristics that define the tasting experience.

WINEGROWING AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA

WESTERN CAPE

COASTAL REGION

Districts:

- CAPE TOWN
- DARLING
- FRANSCHHOEK VALLEY
- LUTZVILLE VALLEY
- PAARL
- STELLENBOSCH
- SWARTLAND
- TULBAGH
- WELLINGTON

KLEIN KAROO

Districts:

- CALITZDORP
- LANGEBERG-GARCIA

CAPE SOUTH COAST

Districts:

- CAPE AGULHAS
- ELGIN
- OVERBERG
- PLETTENBERG BAY
- SWELLENDAM
- WALKER BAY

OLIFANTS RIVER

Districts:

- CITRUSDAL VALLEY
- CITRUSDAL MOUNTAIN

BREEDE RIVER VALLEY

Districts:

- BREEDEKLOOF
- ROBERTSON
- WORCESTER

WARDS NOT PART OF A REGION

Districts:

- CEDERBERG
- CERES
- PRINCE ALBERT VALLEY
- SWARTBERG

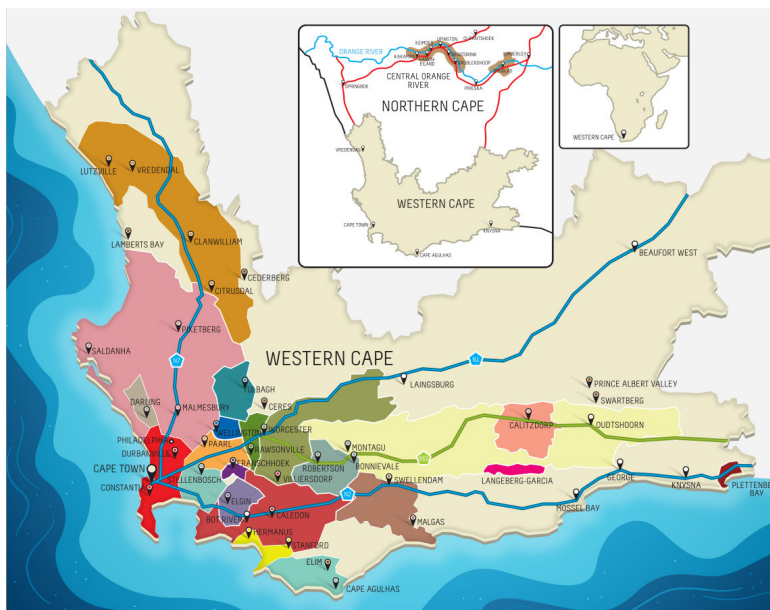
NORTHERN CAPE

(District)

- CENTRAL ORANGE RIVER



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GOURMET TASTINGS

We also offer gourmet wine tastings, where our chef will create an exquisite 4-8 course dinner whereby each course will complement a carefully chosen wine. In addition, we also conduct Whisky and Gourmet Food Pairings.

NOTES

Vintage Changes

Please note that vintage changes may render a particular wine unavailable which is out of our control. There will however, always be a comparable wine offered.

Corkage

Corkage is available at a cost of R60.00 per bottle (750ml) and R80.00 for Magnums or larger.

Note that a maximum of two bottles is permitted, thereafter a surcharge of R80.00 will be applied per bottle.

*“Let us celebrate the occasion with wine and sweet words”
- Plautus*



Aperitif

Enjoy an Aperitif whilst you choose your meal and accompanying wine

Pierre Jourdan Ratafia 42
Chardonnay fortified with potstill Brandy made on the Estate, Haute Cabrière. Legendary winemaker of classic 'Champagne style' wines, Achim Von Arnim.

Sherry

Monis Pale Dry 28
Is a classic fine type Sherry. Dry, aromatic and refreshing. It is best when served slightly chilled.

Monis Medium Cream 28
Produced in a solera, this medium cream Sherry is mellow and smooth with an elusive underlying sweetness which makes it a superb accompaniment to Hors d'oeuvres and Soup.

Monis Full Cream 28
Fully ripened grapes endow this glowing mature Sherry with a smooth rich character. It is an ideal companion to Cheese and Nuts.

Wine by the Glass

White Wines

Jordan The Cold Fact Sauvignon Blanc 2021 - 2022 **** 180 ml (glass) 75
Vigorous gooseberry/grassy scents. Steely, brisk medium-bodied, excellent flavour, long, dry finish.

Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters: Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson

Pierre Jourdan Tranquille 2018 *(*) (V)** 180 ml (glass) 60
A delicious light summer wine, fragrant bouquet with fine fruit and dry finish. Classic dry salmon-coloured.

Region: Franschhoek Winemaker: Takuan von Arnim & Tim Hoek

Leopard's Leap Semi Sweet 2022 **(*) (V) 180 ml (glass) 40
70% Chenin Blanc, 30% Muscat

Fruity melon and pineapple, lusciously sweet.

Region: Franschhoek Winemaker: Renier van Deventer

Red Wines

Meinert Merlot 2017 - 2018 **** 180 ml (glass) 112
Supple, plush and rounded. The ripe fruit is checked by bright, juicy acidity. A good frame of integrated oak makes for an easy drinking wine.

Region: Stellenbosch Winemaker: Brendan Butler

Groenland Shiraz 2018 - 2019 **** 180 ml (glass) 60
Plush, dark fruit with supportive structure. Integrated new oak adds creamy texture.

Region: Stellenbosch Winemakers: Kosie Steenkamp with Piet Steenkamp

Jordan Chameleon Cabernet/Merlot 2020 *** 180 ml (glass) 55
69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 10% Shiraz

Rich, plummy Merlot compliments the minty, blackcurrant flavours of Cabernet Sauvignon.

The peppery, dark berry fruit of the Shiraz adds a spicy complexity to the blend.

Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters: Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson



Rosé

Cederberg Sustainable Rose (V)

180 ml (glass) 55

A cool continental climate, diverse soil types, unpolluted air and free-flowing, crystal clear waters create ideal growing conditions. Grown using minimal interference, this wine reflects the sustainable practices of the farm.

Region: Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt

Dessert Wine

Beaumont Goute d'Or 2021 ****

50 ml (glass) 85

An irresistible combination of honeyed Semillon, dusty botrytis and Sauvignon's refreshing elements.

Region: Bot Rivier Winemaker: Sebastian Beaumont



Champagne

Dom Perignon ■ ■	750 ml	5800
<i>W.O. Haute Villiers, since 1668. An intense, vibrant, tactile yet mature, complex, and sensual champagne - Delicious!</i>		
Region : Champagne (Epernay), France Cellarmaster: Richard Geoffroy		
Moët & Chandon Rosé ■ ■	750 ml	1850
<i>W.O. Epernay. Intense and aromatic blend of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay.</i>		
Region: Champagne (Epernay), France Cellarmaster: Benoit Gouez		
Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label ■ ■	750 ml	1800
<i>Golden-yellow, with a foaming necklace of tiny bubbles. Aroma's of white fruits and raisins, then of vanilla and later of brioche.</i>		
Region: Champagne (Reims), France Cellarmaster: Dominique Demarville		
Moët & Chandon NV Brut Imperial	750 ml	1650
<i>W.O. Epernay. Fine and elegant with a delicious biscuity aroma and flavour.</i>		
Region: Champagne (Reims), France Cellarmaster: Benoit Gouez		

MCC

Graham Beck Brut ****	750 ml	450
<i>Light yeasty aromas, limey fresh fruit on the nose and rich creamy complexity on the palate.</i>		
<i>The exceptionally fine mousse contributes the freshness and finesse.</i>		
Region: Robertson Winemaker: Peter Ferreira		
Pongraz Noble Nectar Demi Sec ****		370
<i>Made in the Classic French tradition of secondary bottle fermentation, this elegant medium - sweet Méthode Cap Classique is a touch of pure indulgence .</i>		
Region: Western Cape Cellarmaster: Elunda Basson		
Bonnievale Brut	750 ml	180
<i>Typical Sauvignon Blanc flavours with crisp, fresh tropical fruit undertones.</i>		
Region: Robertson Winemakers: Marthinus Rademeyer, Edwin Mathambo & Jean Slabber		

Prosecco

Sartori Prosecco Brut ■ ■		420
<i>Straw yellow in colour with light green hues; delicate fruit bouquet, reminiscent of wild apples and acacia flowers.</i>		
<i>Dry with subtle fruit and nut flavour.</i>		
Region: Trevisio Winemaker: Andrea Sartori		


Sparkling Wine

Pierre Jourdan Cuvée Belle Rosé ***(*) (V)	750 ml	360
<i>A crisp elegant flavour with pinprick bubbles.</i>		
Region: Franschoek Winemaker: Takuan von Arnim		
Leopard's Leap Sparkling Chardonnay Pinot Noir ***(*) (v)	750 ml	245
<i>Elegant and well rounded with the perfect balance between freshness and fruit</i>		
Region: Franschoek Cellarmaster: Eugene Van Zyl		
Martini Non Alcoholic	750 ml	220
<i>Made with juice obtained from a blend of selected premium quality Italian grapes</i>		



White Wines

Sauvignon Blanc

Cederberg Ghost Corner Wild Ferment 2019 ****(*) (V) <i>Creamy, full palate with beautiful length enhanced with aromas of fleshy white pear & quince</i> Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	620
Longavi Sauvignon Blanc 2018  <i>It expounds creamy gooseberry and nettley fruit flavours, with tangy acidity and a long, elegant tropical finish.</i> Country: Chile, Leyda Valley Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	485
La Motte Pierneef Sauvignon Blanc 2021 **** (Organically Grown) (v) <i>Citrus, melon, green apple flavours, as well as green pepper & gooseberry flavours, with a mineral finish..</i> Region: Franschoek Winemaker: Michael Langenhoven	335
Jordan The Cold Fact Sauvignon Blanc 2021 - 2022 **** <i>Vigorous gooseberry/grassy scents. Steely, brisk medium-bodied, excellent flavour, long, dry finish.</i> Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters: Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson	285

Chardonnay

Springfield Wild Yeast Chardonnay (unwooded) 2021 ****(V) <i>Creamily rich texture, ripe tropical flavours simply fold into the mouth with stunning concentration.</i> Region: Robertson Winemaker: Abrie Bruwer	345
Thelema Sutherland Chardonnay 2019 - 2020 **** <i>Peach & spice upon entry, with a spicy mineral mid-palate & a textured finish, great balance & elegance.</i> Region: Elgin Winemakers: Rudi Schultz & Duncan Clarke	245
Diemersdal Chardonnay 2020 - 2021 ****(V) <i>Spicy aromas with fresh fruit flavours. The nose is elegant, with the richness of the fruit enhanced by apple & sweet melon.</i> Region: Durbanville Winemaker: Thys Louw & Mari Branders	195

Chenin Blanc

Cederberg Five Generations Chenin Blanc 2019 - 2021 ****(*) (V) <i>Delicate aromas of honey, lime zest, roasted nuts and peaches laced with sweet vanilla undertones from the oak.</i> Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	650
Vrede en Lust Kogelberg Chenin Blanc 2018 **** <i>Full-bodied wine with tropical fruit character of Chenin. Palate is rich with hints of honey and ripe fruit..</i> Region: Paarl Winemaker: Susan Erasmus	460
Raats Original Chenin Blanc 2021 - 2022 ****(*) <i>Pineapple, pear and white fruit flavours with spiciness and aniseed, hints of butterscotch. Good balance. Excellent finish.</i> Region: Stellenbosch Winemaker: Bruwer Raats	295



White Blends

Cederberg Ghost Corner The Bowline 2021 - 2022 ****(*) (V)	580
60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Semillon	
<i>Green fig and dusty elements from Semillon complement the ripe asparagus notes from the sauvignon blanc. Complex wine with well-balanced oak.</i>	
Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	
Springfield Miss Lucy 2021 - 2022 ****	320
Vineyard 58% Sauvignon Blanc 28% Semillon 18% Pinot Gris	
<i>Unique blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Pinot Gris bursts with citrus pamplemousse flavours and full mouth feel.</i>	
Region: Robertson Winemaker: Abrie Bruwer	
Haute Cabrière Chardonnay/Pinot Noir 2021 - 2022 ****	235
77% Chardonnay, 23% Pinot Noir	
<i>A blush of pink, tropical fruit and citrus aromas follow through on the palate. An all time favourite.</i>	
Region: Franschhoek Winemaker: Takuan von Arnim & Tim Hoek	
Jordan Chameleon Sauvignon Blanc/Chardonnay 2022 ***	165
67% Sauvignon Blanc, 21% Chardonnay, 12% Chenin Blanc	
<i>Ripe Cape green fig Sauvignon Blanc and zesty, citrus-melon unoaked Chardonnay, balanced by a long creamy finish.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters : Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson	
Pierre Jourdan Tranquille	160
55% Pinot Noir, 45% Chardonnay	
<i>A delicious light summer wine, fragrant bouquet with fine fruit and dry finish. Classic dry salmon-coloured.</i>	
Region: Franschhoek Winemaker: Takuan von Arnim & Tim Hoek	
Leopard's Leap Semi Sweet 2022 **(*) (v)	145
70% Chenin Blanc, 30% Muscat	
<i>Enjoy flavours of ripe guava joined by whiffs of almond and a decadent caramel mouth feel.</i>	
Region: Franschhoek Cellarmaster: Eugene Van Zyl	

Rosé and Blanc de Noir

Cederberg Sustainable Rosé 2022 ***(*) (Organically grown) (V)	190
<i>Fleshy raspberry notes, nice grip, light and dry enough.</i>	
Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	
Jordan Chameleon Rosé 2020 - 2021 ***(*)	165
<i>Plummy Merlot combined with summer-berry flavours of Shiraz add complexity to this dry fruity rosé.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters: Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson	



Other White Varietals

Boekenhoutskloof Semillon 2016 ****(*)	780
<i>Subtle and lessy, with some herbal and orange zest notes and a wild, naturally fermented undertone.</i>	
Region: Franschhoek Cellarmaster: Marc Kent	
Leeuwenkuil Marsanne 2014 ****	230
<i>Ripe tropical fruit and hints of vanilla. Good acidity helps the lingering mineral aftertaste.</i>	
Region: Swartland Cellarmaster: Pieter Carstens	
Cederberg Bukettraube 2022***(*)	230
<i>An explosion of aroma and flavour. Prominent Muscat flavours with apricot and floral notes on the nose. A well-balanced wine with a delicate sweetness and a crisp acidity.</i>	
Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	
Simonsig Gewürztraminer 2022 ***(*)	215
<i>This wine shows elegant floral and litchi flavours with hints of rose petals and lime. Litchi, rose petals and lime make a perfect match for curries and flavours with a bite!</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmaster: Johan Malan	



Red Wines

Cabernet Sauvignon

Five Generations Cabernet Sauvignon 2013, 2015 ****(*)	1200
<i>French oak has intensified the rich aromas of blackcurrant and cassis, layered with decadent dark chocolate and cherry tobacco.</i>	
Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	
Jordan The Long Fuse Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 ****(*)	480
<i>Deep ruby colour, huge mouth filling flavours of blackberry, cassis and vanilla. French Oak barrels add a complex toastiness.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters: Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson	
Groenland Cabernet Sauvignon 2018 - 2019 ****	220
<i>A beautifully well rounded fruity wine that flavours your palate with hints of Black Pepper and Berry notes, as well as a smooth, lingering chocolate flavour finish.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemakers: Kosie Steenkamp with Piet Steenkamp	

Pinotage

Wildekran Pinotage Barrel Selection 2014 - 2018 ****(*)	820
<i>Full bodied yet smoothly structured. Toasty oak and sweetish finish detract from pretty raspberry undertones.</i>	
Region: Bot River Winemaker: William Wilkinson	
Southern Right Pinotage 2019 - 2021 ****	695
<i>Intense classically styled, clay-grown wine, packed with complex berry fruit, beautiful tannins and subtle wood spice. Full ripeness and the longer hang-time afforded by cooler sites.</i>	
Region: Hermanus Winemaker: Emul Ross	
Beaumont Jackals River Pinotage 2022 ****	565
<i>The wine shows intense plum and chocolate nose, with cherry tobacco and cedar wood. Tannins are soft and well balanced. Has a full palate with exceptionally long after-taste.</i>	
Region: Eot River Winemaker: Sebastian Beaumont	

Shiraz

De Grendel Shiraz 2020 ****(*) (v)	430
<i>This Shiraz shows coriander, lavender, white pepper and some floral notes.</i>	
Region: Durbanville Winemaker: Elzette de Preez	
Neil Ellis Shiraz 2020 ****	310
<i>Elegant but concentrated palate with underlying cedar spice and a finely balanced tannin structure.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemaker: Warren Ellis	
Groenland Shiraz Classic 2018 ***	210
<i>This complex and traditional cultivar will tease your taste buds- on the palate with vanilla and smokey aromas.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemakers: Kosie Steenkamp with Piet Steenkamp	



Merlot

Meerlust Merlot 2016 ****(*) (v) <i>Intense dark fruit on the nose, mulberry and damson plum with hints of dark chocolate and spice.</i> Region: Stellenbosch Cellar master: Chris Williams	950
Vergelegen Merlot 2016 ****(*) <i>Ripe plum colour with a ruby rim. The nose shows ripe fruit flavours, black cherries, plum, spice and a touch of chocolate. The ripeness of the fruit is balanced by fresh fruit acidity and soft wood/fruit tannins. The aftertaste is long and lasting.</i> Region: Somerset West Winemaker: André van Rensburg	570
Meinert Merlot 2018 ***(*) <i>Our Meinert Merlot offers an array of complex red and black berries, overlain with spice and supported with juicy, supple tannins. Careful cellaring will reward you with great longevity, but one need not lay this wine down before being able to fully enjoy as our philosophy of 'a great wine only gets better with age' underpins our wine-farming philosophy. Enjoy each sip to enrich the soul and ignite your inner youthful spark.</i> Region: Stellenbosch Winemaker: Brendan Butler	425
Leopard's Leap Merlot 2021 *** <i>Packed with juicy mulberry and red cherry fruit characteristics with subtle spicy oak undertones and a long, smooth finish.</i> Region: Franschoek Cellarmaster: Eugene Van Zyl	165

Pinot Noir

Cederberg Ghost Corner Pinot Noir 2019 - 2020 ****(*) (v) <i>Prominent red fruit of ripe cherries and sweet raspberries with an undertone of earthy, mushroom nuances.</i> Region: Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	610
Oak Valley Sound of Silence Pinot Noir 2019 - 2020 **** <i>Dried strawberry, cured meats and potpourri on the nose with beetroot and cranberry on the palate.</i> Region: Elgin Winemaker: Jacques du Plessis	320

Red Blends

Meerlust Rubicon 2015 - 2016 ****(*) (v) 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot <i>From the Director's Cellar. Cassis & graphite whiffs, plush yet lithe and restrained, with good grip from 69 % cab with merlot and cab franc.</i> Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmaster: Chris Williams	1250
Buitenverwachting Christine 2015 ****(*) (v) 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Cabernet Franc, 11% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 5% Malbec <i>From the Director's Cellar. Merlot, cab franc and malbec, offers rich deep cassis & cherry fruit. Spicy cedar minerals. A touch leaner than previous, but nicely zesty.</i> Region: Constantia Winemaker: Brad Paton with Stephan Steyn	1150
Bouchard Finlayson Hannibal 2016 - 2019 ****(*) 42% Sangiovese, 17% Nebbiolo, 15% Pinot Noir, 12% Shiraz, 7% Mourvedre, 7% Barbera <i>This vintage is fresh and alive with a characteristic Italian mouthfeel reflecting fruity complexity. Olive and red current flavours combine with cranberry to result in a lingering finish and complex mouthfeel. Excellent maturation is expected.</i> Region: Hermanus Cellarmaster: Chris Albrecht with Nelis Uys	780
Rustenberg John X Merriman 2020 ****(*) 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 3% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc <i>Glossy high-toned ripeness presently accompanied by persistent grip.</i> Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmaster: Murray Barlow	465



Ataraxia Serenity 2016 ****	425
<i>Cinsault, Pinotage and Pinot Noir.</i>	
<i>Finely scented vibrant nose with beautifully lifted dark berry fruit and intriguing mineral and spicy notes.</i>	
Region: Hemel-en-aarde Ridge Winemaker: Kevin Grant	
Cederberg Merlot/Shiraz 2020 ***(*) (v)	270
<i>70% Merlot, 30% Shiraz 70% Merlot, 30% Shiraz</i>	
<i>Abundance of fruit on the nose. Sweet plums and black currents from the Merlot and a slight hint of spice from the Shiraz.</i>	
Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	
Jordan Chameleon Cabernet/Merlot 2020 ***	190
<i>69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 10% Shiraz</i>	
<i>Rich, plummy Merlot complements the minty, blackcurrant flavours of Cabernet Sauvignon. The peppery, dark berry fruit of the Shiraz adds a spicy complexity to the blend.</i>	

Other Red Varietals

Neil Ellis Piekenierskloof Vineyard Selection Grenache 2015 ****(*)	725
<i>The nose has red cherries and strawberries with perfumed violet like aromas. A fresh palate with flavours of raspberries and strawberries leading into a balanced mid palate of fine textured tannins.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemaker: Warren Ellis	
Raats Dolomite Cabernet Franc 2020 ****(*)	380
<i>Cherries, pepper & smoky notes before sweep of meaty red fruit – cranberries , ripe plums. Deliciously different.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmaster: Bruwer Raats	
Zorgvliet Petit Verdot 2010, 2016, 2018 ****	365
<i>Has an intense black colour with a vibrant purple rim, The nose is deep and brooding, with black fruit on the nose and aromas of violets, printers ink, iodine, dried sage and cassis. Tight and focused structure on the mid palate with a medium Length Finish.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemakers: Bernard le Roux & Ruben Adams	
Leeuwenkuil Cinsault 2015 ***(*)	285
<i>An elegant and velvet wine good colour and concentration for Cinsault. Red berries and cherries, savoury black olives and black spices.</i>	
Region: Swartland Cellarmaster: Pieter Carstens	

Dessert Wines

Tierhoek Straw Wine NV 2017 ****(*)	(375ml) 545
<i>An unctuous wine of immense flavours of dried apricots and honey.</i>	
<i>Wonderful clean finish on the palate with fine balance of sweetness and fresh natural fruit acidity</i>	
Region: Citrusdal Cellarmaster: Roger Burton	
Beaumont Goutte d'Or 2015 ****	(375ml) 460
<i>An irresistible combination of honeyed Semillon, dusty botrytis and Sauvignon's refreshing elements.</i>	
Region: Bot River Winemaker: Sebastian Beaumont	

Port

Allesverloren Fine Old Vintage	(glass) 32
<i>Deep ruby red. Freshly picked grapes with a hint of cinnamon and spice. A velvety and rich wine with a soft and smooth lingering fruitcake finish.</i>	



Wine Terms & Wine Lingo

Learning some wine terminology is often the first step to increasing your wine knowledge. Use our list below to help you along as you encounter new wine lingo.

ACIDS

Acids give wine tartness. Several acids are in the grape before fermentation, and others arise afterward. Acids often make a wine seem “crisp” or “refreshing.”

AFTERTASTE

A tasting term for the taste left on the palate after wine has been swallowed. “Finish” is a synonym.

ALCOHOL

Generally refers to ethanol, a chemical compound found in alcoholic beverages. It is also commonly used to refer to alcoholic beverages in general.

APPELLATION OF ORIGIN

You might see this phrase on a wine label. It denotes the place where most of the grapes used in the wine were grown. An appellation of origin can be the name of a country, state, county or geographic region. Federal regulations require that at least 75 percent of the grapes must be grown in the named appellation of origin.

AROMA

The smell of a wine. The term is generally applied to younger wines, while the term Bouquet is reserved for more aged wines.

ASTRINGENCY

The degree of astringency (how much a wine makes your mouth pucker) depends upon the amount of tannin a wine has absorbed from the skins and seeds of the grapes. A moderate amount of astringency is desirable-it creates a lovely flavor-in many red wine types.

BALANCE

A wine has balance when its elements are harmonious; when no one part dominates. Acid should balance against sweetness; fruit should balance against oak and tannin; alcohol balances against acid and flavor.

BARREL

A hollow cylindrical container, traditionally made of wood staves, used for fermenting and aging wine. Sometimes called a cask.

BAUMÉ

A measure of the sugar concentration in the juice or wine.

BLENDING

The mixing of two or more different parcels of wine together by winemakers to produce a consistent finished wine that is ready for bottling. Laws generally dictate what wines can be blended together, and what is subsequently printed on the wine label.

BLIND TASTING

Tasting and evaluating wine without knowing what it is.



BOTRYTIS CINEREA

See Noble rot.

BOTTLE SHOCK

Also known as bottle-sickness, a temporary condition of wine characterized by muted or disjointed fruit flavors. It often occurs immediately after bottling or when wines (usually fragile wines) are shaken in travel. After several days the condition usually disappears.

BODY

It's all about how thin or thick the wine feels in your mouth. "Light body" connotes a thin feeling in your mouth. "Medium body" means that a wine is full-flavored, without being too heavy. "Heavy body" means the wine has a robust, round, and very rich feel.

BOUQUET

Smells that result from a wine's aging process. Bouquet can also describe a wine's overall smell.

BRIX

A standardized scale to measure the sugar content in grapes before fermentation. Most table wines are harvested between 19 degrees and 25 degrees Brix.

BRUT

A French term for a very dry champagne or sparkling wine. Drier than extra dry.

BUNG

A stopper used to seal a bottle or barrel. Commonly used term for corks.

CARBONIC MACERATION

A winemaking practice of fermenting whole grapes that have not been crushed.

CELLAR

A storehouse or storeroom used specifically for holding wine. Long ago, wine was best kept in underground cellars. Modern methods of insulation and temperature control have transformed the job of storing wine, making it possible for wine "cellars" to be above ground as well. Wine is best stored horizontally in a dark place with minimal temperature fluctuation. The optimal temperature for storing most wines is between 45°F and 65°F. Check out *Serving and Storage* for more details.

CELLARING

To age wine for the purpose of improvement or storage. Cellaring may occur in any area which is cool (12-15°C), dark, free from drastic temperature change, and free from vibrations. Bottled wines are typically cellared on their sides.

CHAPTALIZATION

A winemaking process where sugar is added to the must to increase the alcohol content in the fermented wine. This is often done when grapes have not ripened adequately.

CHARMAT PROCESS

The Charmat or bulk process is a method where sparkling wines receive their secondary fermentation in large tanks, rather than individual bottles as seen in *Méthode champenoise*.



CLARIFICATION

A winemaking process involving the fining and filtration of wine to remove suspended solids and reduce turbidity.

CORKED

A tasting term for a wine that has cork taint.

CRÉMANT

French sparkling wine not made in Champagne region.

CRUST

Sediment, generally potassium bitartrate, which adheres to the inside of a wine bottle.

CUVE

A large vat used for fermentation.

CUVÉE

A wine blended from several vats or batches, or from a selected vat. Also used in Champagne to denote the juice from the first pressing of a batch of grapes.

DECANTING

The process of pouring wine from its bottle into a decanter to separate the sediment from the wine.

DÉGORGEMENT

The disgorging or removal of sediment from bottles that results from secondary fermentation.

DEVATting

The process of separating red must from pomace, which can happen before or after fermentation.

DOUX

The French word for sweet. Usually refers to the sweetest category of sparkling wines.

DRY

Wines with zero or very low levels of residual sugar. The opposite of sweet, except in sparkling wines, where dry means sweet.

EXTRACT

Everything in a wine except for water, sugar, alcohol, and acidity, the term refers to the solid compounds such as tannins. High levels of extract results in more color and body, which may be increased by prolonging the wine's contact with the skins during Cuvaison.

FERMENTATION

This is the way in which grape sugar is converted to ethyl alcohol and carbon dioxide, thereby converting grape juice into wine.

FINING

A clarification process where flocculants, such as bentonite or egg white, are added to the wine to remove suspended solids.



FINISH

The finish is the overall taste that remains in your mouth after you've swallowed the wine; it's the length and pleasantness of the aftertaste. A well-balanced, full-bodied wine usually has a long finish, while a well-balanced, light-bodied wine has a shorter finish.

FLABBY

Tasting term used to indicate a wine lacking in structure, often marked by low acidity.

FORTIFIED WINE

Wine to which alcohol has been added, generally to increase the concentration to a high enough level to prevent fermentation.

FREE RUN

Juice obtained from grapes that have not been pressed.

HARD

A tasting term for a wine that contains too much tannin and is therefore unpleasant. Hard wines often take a long time to mature.

LATE HARVEST WINE

Also known as late picked, wine made from grapes that have been left on the vine longer than usual. Usually an indicator for a very sweet or dessert wine.

LEES

Wine sediment that occurs during and after fermentation, and consists of dead yeast, grape seeds, and other solids. Wine is separated from the lees by racking.

LEGS

You've seen them-the drops of wine that creep down the side of the wine glass. A higher alcohol content means thinner legs flow back into the wine after you swirl the glass.

LOOK

A tasting term for the casual sensory evaluation of a wine.

MACERATION

The contact of grape skins with the must during fermentation, extracting phenolic compounds including tannins, anthocyanins, and aroma. See also Cuvaison.

MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION

Also called "secondary fermentation." The sharp malic acid in wine converts to lactic acid and carbon dioxide, thereby decreasing tartness and creating buttery aromas.

MICRO OXYGENATION

The controlled exposure of wine to small amounts of oxygen in the attempt to reduce the length of time required for maturation.

MIDPALATE

A tasting term for the feel and taste of a wine when held in the mouth.



MOUTHFEEL

The various sensations – thick or thin, round or lean – a wine can create while in the mouth.

NOBLE ROT

Another name for the *Botrytis cinerea* mould that can pierce grape skins causing dehydration. The resulting grapes produce a highly prized sweet wine, generally dessert wine.

NOSE

Many wine lovers prefer to say nose, but what they actually mean is the smell or aroma of the wine. The nose of a wine is best sensed by smell just after you swirl the wine in your glass. Check out [How to Taste Wine](#) to learn more about the classical process of wine tasting.

OFF-DRY

A wine that has the barest hint of sweetness; a slightly sweet wine in which the residual sugar is barely perceptible.

OLD VINE

Wine produced from vines that are notably old.

PALATE

A tasting term for the feel and taste of a wine in the mouth.

PH

A measure of the acidity. The lower the pH, the higher the acidity. The term comes from the French *Pouvoir Hydrogène* meaning “hydrogen power”. pH is a shorthand for its mathematical approximation: in chemistry a small p is used in place of writing \log_{10} and the H here represents $[H^+]$, the concentration of hydrogen ions.

PHYLLOXERA

Underground insect that kills grape vines by attacking their roots.

PLONK

British English slang for an inexpensive bottle of wine. The term is thought to originate from the French word for white wine, “blanc”.

POMACE

The skins, stalks, and pips (seeds) that remain after making wine. Also called marc.

POTASSIUM SORBATE

A wine stabilizer and preservative.

PROOF

Refers to the alcohol content of a beverage. In the United States, proof represents twice the alcohol content as a percentage of volume. Thus, a 100 proof beverage is 50% alcohol by volume and a 150 proof beverage is 75% alcohol. In the Imperial system, proof, (or 100% proof), equals 57.06% ethanol by volume, or 48.24% by weight. Absolute or pure ethanol is 75.25 over proof, or 175.25 proof.

RACKING

The process of drawing wine off the sediment, such as lees, after fermentation and moving it into another vessel.



RESERVE

A term given to wine to indicate that it is of higher quality than usual.

RESIDUAL SUGAR

Often referred to as RS, it is a measure of the amount of sugar remaining in the wine after fermentation stops. RS is usually measured in grams of sugar per liter or milliliter of wine, and it indicates how sweet or dry a wine is.

REVERSE OSMOSIS

A process used to remove excess water from wine.

RIDDLING

Also known as “Rémuage” in French, part of the Méthode Champenoise process whereby bottles of sparkling wine are successively turned and gradually tilted upside down so that sediment settles into the necks of the bottles in preparation for degorgement.

SCREWCAP

An alternative to cork for sealing wine bottles, comprising a metal cap that screws onto threads on the neck of a bottle. Also called a “Stelvin”.

SEC

French for dry, except in the case of Champagne, where it means semi-sweet.

SECONDARY FERMENTATION

Most commonly the term is used to refer to the continuation of fermentation in a second vessel - e.g. moving the wine from a stainless steel tank to an oak barrel.

SOMMELIER

(So-mel-YAY) The French word for wine steward. Many fine restaurants have a Sommelier to assist guests in choosing a wine from the menu.

SULFITES

Compounds (typically: potassium metabisulfite or sodium metabisulfite) which are added to wine to prevent oxidation, microbial spoilage, and further fermentation by the yeast.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE

A substance used in winemaking as a preservative.

TANNINS

Naturally occurring substances found mostly in grape skins, seeds and stems. They can give young wines a mouth-puckering bitterness and astringency, but some tannins are desirable in red wines to give them structure.

TERROIR

French for “soil”, the physical and geographical characteristics of a particular vineyard site that give the resultant wine its unique properties.

TEXTURE

A tasting term for the mouthfeel of wine on the palate.

TRANSPARENCY

The ability of a wine to clearly portray all unique aspects of its flavor--fruit, floral, and mineral notes. The opposite would be a wine where flavors are diffused and thoroughly integrated.



UNOAKED

Also known as unwooded, refers to wines that have been matured without contact with wood/oak such as in aging barrels.

VARIETAL

The varieties of grape from which the wine was made. You might be familiar with many of these: Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Shiraz.

VINICULTURE

The art and science of making wine. Also called enology (or oenology). Not to be confused with viticulture.

VINTAGE

The year in which the grapes used to make the wine were harvested.

VITICULTURE

The cultivation of grapes. Not to be confused with viniculture.

VOLATILE ACIDITY

The level of acetic acid present within a wine.

WINE-PRESS

A device, comprising two vats or receptacles, one for treading and bruising grapes, and the other for collecting the juice.

YEAST

A microscopic unicellular fungi responsible for the conversion of sugars in must to alcohol. This process is known as alcoholic fermentation.

YOUNG

Wine that is not matured and usually bottled and sold within a year of its vintage.

ZYMOLOGY

The science of fermentation.

