

blended red wines

The art of blending is a true barometer of the capability of the Cellar Master. In the Cape we have various blends. Frequently Cabernet Sauvignon and merlot are blended together. Sometimes Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec are added to create the red classic blend. Increasingly South African wine makers, in search of an unique local taste, are playing with blends of Pinotage called Cape blends as well blends containing Shiraz. The wines listed below offer a wide range of tastes.

All are traditionally partners for red meat but are not taboo when it comes to certain types of line fish and pasta.

classic blends

The term "classic blend" is my own. It refers to the age-old way in which red wines from various communes make up Bordeaux red wines. Based on Cabernet Sauvignon with additions like Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. At times the wines might be Merlot or Cabernet Franc-driven. See the KEY at the start of the list.

ALTO ESTATE

wo - coastal region – stellenbosch - helderberg

I have known ALTO for nearly five decades, even made some wine there – also decades ago. In die Sixties I was responsible for this estate to receive the Cordon Bleu Award for excellence. The owner at the time, Advocate H Broekma, and winemaker Pieter du Toit, were in fact the first two South Africans to be honoured in this way. Pieter, or as he is better known, Piet, is one of the most remarkable men ever to have graced the South African wine scene. Then owner of Kanonkop, the politician and Minister of State, Paul Sauer, tried to lure Piet to take over Kanonkop's winemaking. He however remained faithful to Broekma and on Broekma's retirement was offered to buy in a share of Alto. The other part going to Distillers Corporation (today Distell). Piet's son, Springbok rugby hero, Hempies, took over. Piet decided to retire and the Du Toit shares were sold to Lusan Premium Wines, now part of Distell. This did not suit Hempies, who already owned next door farm Annandale. After so many years of the Du Toit reign, Schalk van der Westhuizen took over as winemaker in 2000.

ALTO ROUGE 2006 (440)

150

BLEND: bordeaux varieties with shiraz and cabernet franc dominating.

Well structured. Ideal with venison.

15 % alc/vol; 2,6 g/l r/s; 3.42 pH; 6,24 g/l t/a

ASARA ESTATE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - polkadraai hills

ASARA BELLTOWER COLLECTION ESTATE WINE 1998 (441)

400

BLEND: cab s/merlot/malbec/cab f/petit verdot

Two years in oak – 40% new. Big style. Good with strong meat sauces.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

BACKSBERG ESTATE CELLARS

wo – coastal region – paarl – simonsberg-paarl

*Way back when the wine route was started and television sets unknown in South Africa, current owner Michael Back's father, the late Sydney Back, introduced circuit television and lines painted in various colours, which visitors to the cellar could follow as they walked to the tasting room. Innovative then, very much so today! Being the first carbon-neutral wine farm in South Africa, ten percent of the property is planted under trees as a renewable source of energy. Various ranges are on sale of which the **Black Label Range** is featured on our wine list.*

BLACK LABEL RANGE KLEIN BABYLONSTOREN 2004 (443) **250**

BLEND: cab s/ merlot/cab f

Fruit and oak (24 months – 50 % new). Well integrated.

Violets as a bonus. Long life.

15 % alc/vol; 3,4 g/l r/s; 3.63 pH; 5,8 g/l t/a

BELLEVUE ESTATE

wo - coastal region – stellenbosch - bottelary

BELLEVUE MORKEL RANGE TUMARA 2000 (444) **250**

BLEND: cab s/malbec/cab f

True to powerful vintage, concentrated yet tannins now soft and velvety.

13,5 % alc/vol

BOSCHKLOOF

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch – polkadraai hills

*Part owner of Boschkloof, Jacques Borman, previously was wine maker at La Motte. His dream of owning his own farm has come true and soon he is to be joined by his youngest son. His **Conclusion** is resting in our cellar for future inclusion on our wine list.*

BOSCHKLOOF CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT 1999 (445) **250**

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Original firm tannins now completely mellowed, Chocolate-vanilla hints.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

BOSCHKLOOF CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT RESERVE 1999 (446) **300**

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Firmer than previous. Perfect match with Impala or Kudu.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

BUITENVERWACHTING

wo – coastal region – cape point - constantia

BUITENVERWACHTING CHRISTINE 1998 (447) **350**

BLEND: cab s/cab f/merlot

A Cape icon at its peak!

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

CAPAIA WINES

wo – coastal region – tygerberg - philadelphia

CAPAIA BARON VON ESSEN 2004 (448) **500**

BLEND: cab s/merlot

14 months in 100 % new French oak. Good tannins. Superlative Cape wine.

Red meat with foie gras.

14,5 % alc/vol; 1,7 g/l r/s; 3.4 pH; 5,1 g/l t/a

CLOOF

wo – coastal region – darling

Cloof holds bio-diversity champion's status for their conservation efforts. Although committed wine maker, Christopher van Dieren, is known as a Shiraz man, he has proved that he can produce red wine worthy of the Concours Mondial in Brussels – Gold medal – like the wine listed below.

CLOOF CABERNET FRANC-CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT 2003 (449) 350

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Structured, concentrated, maturing slowly. Made to match red meat.

15 % alc/vol; 2,3 g/l r/s; 3.91 pH; g/l t/a

CLOS MALVERNE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch – devon valley

This wine was entered in the national Wine Show and out of 1000 entries it was judged champion red blend as well as the National Champion Red Wine and received the coveted General Smuts Trophy. A Limited amount of this wine was put on the market and is extremely rare.

CLOS MALVERNE BASKET PRESS

CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT LIMITED RELEASE 2001 (450) 400

Unfiltered – must be decanted.

Powerful, full-bodied. Controlled tannins. At its peak!

13,8 alc/vol

CORDOBA WINERY

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch – helderberg

Winemaker, Chris Keet, of this superb winery is one of my subjective favourite wine people. I like his attitude and commitment as both viticulturist and winemaker. A Year in Provence comes to mind when nosing hints of Provencal lavender mixed with fynbos against typical Helderberg pepperiness. He is leaving our shores for Australia and will be sadly missed.

CORDOBA CRESCENDO

BLEND: cab f/merlot

1997 (451) 350

Elegance personified

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

1999 (452) 350

Ripe fruit

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

2000 (453) 350

Concentrated, can mature for many more years.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

2003 (454) 400

Big year. Long life. Complex

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

DELHEIM

wo - coastal region – stellenbosch – simonsberg-stellenbosch

DELHEIM GRAND RESERVE

BLEND: cab s/merlot

1998 (455) 350

Ripe fruit condensed to an essential coulis. Slow-roasted lamb partner.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

1999 (456) 300

Similar to the 1998, has matured slightly faster.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

DE TOREN PRIVATE CELLAR

wo - coastal region – stellenbosch - polkadraai hills

Model farm with seven different types of soil planted with all five Bordeaux cultivars and more than a dozen different clones. This cellar is consistently a top performer and internationally acclaimed. When De Toren made their international debut the very first vintage received 90 points in Robert Parker's rating scale – "a world first for a maiden vintage from anywhere!"

DE TOREN FUSION V

BLEND: cab s/cab f/merlot/malbec/petit verdot. Proportions varying according to vintage.

2000 ()

Ripe, red wine transcends individual components.

13 % alc/vol; 1,8 g/l r/s; 3.6 pH; 2,14 g/l t/a

2001 ()

Oak veneer. Deep, plush "fruit-cake"

14,5 alc/vol; 2,89 g/l r/s; 3.0 pH; 1,89g/l t/a

2003 (*magnum*) (457)

1500

Dark, dense texture. Ripe tannins. Not over wooded.

Long ripe finish. Show-stopper!

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,04 g/l r/s; 3.57 pH; 5,94 g/l t/a

DURBANVILLE HILLS

wo – coastal region – tygerberg - durbanville

CAAPMANS CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT 2003 (458)

350

BLEND: cab s/merlot

True expression of terroir. Top quality. Grilled red meat.

% alc/vol; 2,04 g/l 3.47 r/s; pH; g/l t/a

EIKENDAL VINEYARDS

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - helderberg

EIKENDAL CLASSIQUE 1998 ()

500

BLEND: cab s/merlot/cab f

Berry fruits, firm and full

Has softened over time and now at its peak.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

ERNIE ELS WINES

wo - coastal region – stellenbosch – helderberg

ENGELBRECHT-ELS 2003 (459)

1000

wo – western cape

BLEND: cab s/shiraz/merlot splashed with malbec/petit verdot and cab f

Grapes sourced from Durbanville, Elgin and Stellenbosch vineyards.

Hence wine wine of origin: WESTERN CAPE.

Sophistication without comparison: Dark, dense, ripe!

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

FLEUR DU CAP

wo – coastal region – wine of south africa

This wine was produced as a tribute to my friend Dr Julius Laszlo, who set new standards of winemaking in South Africa. Not only was he an innovative winemaker and exceptional cellar master, but a human being of irreproachable integrity. I had the privilege of introducing many wines nurtured under Dr Laszlo when I made guests appearances in Europe and the Far East. We were greatly honoured to have cooked the dinner at the launch of this wine. Our main course was a confit of oxtail contrasted by a European-style oxtail-in-white-wine - the latter prepared by our dear friend, Marlene van der Westhuizen.

FLEUR DU CAP LASZLO 2004 (460)

400

BLEND: merlot/cab s/petit verdot/malbec

Full-bodied, fruit-driven and rich, luscious wine.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

GROOT CONSTANTIA ESTATE

wo – coastal region – cape point – constantia

GROOT CONSTANTIA GOUVERSNEURS RESERVE 2000 ()

350

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Since 2000 no Pinotage in this Bordeaux-style blend.

Cedar and vanilla overlaying black berry fruits.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

HAVANA HILLS

wo – coastal region – tygerberg - philadelphia

For an amazing view of Table Mountain, you have to stand in front of this beautiful hill-top winery, look across the Atlantic towards the Waterfront and the gracious lady protecting Cape Town will form the backdrop.

HAVANA HILLS DU PLESSIS CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT 1999 (462) **250**

wo – western province

BLEND: cab s/merlot, blended from Durbanville and Swartland grapes.

Ripe tannins, earthy base. And more superlatives! Cedar mixed with black fruit.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

HAVANA HILLS DU PLESSIS RESERVE RANGE DU PLESSIS 2004 (463) **350**

BLEND: cab s/cab f/merlot/petit verdot/malbec

Subtle oaking. Mineral overtones over red fruit.

Some chocolate truffle tones reaching maturity.

Long life ahead.

13 % alc/vol; 3,4 g/l r/s; 3.96 pH; 3,4 g/l t/a

HIGH CONSTANTIA

wo – coastal region – cape point - constantia

Next door to Groot Constantia and originally part of the farm.

HIGH CONSTANTIA SEBASTIAN 2000 (464)

500

BLEND: cab s/cab f

Tempered spice against berries.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

INGWE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - helderberg

INGWE RESERVE 2004 (465)

180

BLEND: merlot/cab s

Such a together wine. Merlot led. Fruit driven with black cherry leading.

Good minerality. Perfect wood treatment resulting in total integration.

13,5 % alc/vol; 2,3 g/l r/s; 3.61 pH; 4,8 g/l t/a

JORDAN WINERY

wo – coastal region – Stellenbosch – Polkadraai hills

Gary and Kathy Jordan are responsible for Jordan's quick rise to one of the top Cape Wineries. What is more, they also donate a percentage of sales towards the tuition and research cost of a PhD candidate studying the endangered Cape dwarf chameleons.

JORDAN COBBLERS HILL RESERVE

BLEND: cab s/merlot/cab f

2001 (466) **400**

Long live fruit concentration.

15 alc/vol; 2,96 g/l r/s; 3.66 pH; 6,2 g/l t/a

2002 (467) **500**

Well-structured – still developing.

14,5 % alc/vol; 3 g/l r/s; 3.53 pH; 6,2 g/l t/a

2004 (468) **600**

Sensational!

14,5 % alc/vol; 2 g/l r/s; 3.56 pH; 6,4 g/l t/a

C.I.W.G. 1999 (magnum) (469) **1500**

The best of the best. Think Tournedos with foie gras.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

KANONKOP ESTATE

wo – coastal region – Stellenbosch – Simonsberg

An old Afrikaans saying "jakkals prys nie sy eie stert nie" (self-praise is no recommendation) springs to mind when visiting and tasting Kanonkop wines. This wonderful estate is considered to be one of the top three in the country.

KANONKOP C.I.W.G 1991 (470) **800**

BLEND: predominantly cab s/dash merlot and cab f

proof of longevity of South African reds.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

PAUL SAUER 2004 (472) **1000**

BLEND: cab s/merlot/cab f

A classic since 1981 says the Platter Guide. Two years new French oak.

14 % alc/vol; 1,3 g/l r/s; 3.51 pH; 5,7 g/l t/a

LE BONHEUR ESTATE

wo – coastal region – Stellenbosch - Simonsberg

LE BONHEUR PRIMA 2004 (479) **180**

BLEND: mostly merlot with cab s

40 % barrel-fermented in French oak – soft tannins, great finesse.

13,5 % alc/vol; 2,2 g/l r/s; 3.81 pH; 5,78 g/l t/a

LAIBACH VINEYARDS

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - simonsberg

Bordering unto Warrick and Kanonkop you will not find any Cape vernacular architecture here, but a modern cellar. The farm is moving more and more towards organic production which they hope to reach by 2010. Laibach do not filter their wines. Therefore it will have sediment and must be decanted.

LAIBACH CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT

cab s/merlot

1999 (473) **250**

At first abrasive tannins, now soft and well rounded.

13,5 % alc/vol; 3,84 g/l r/s; 2.4 pH; 6,1 g/l t/a

2000 (474) **250**

Fruit driven. Soft tannins.

14 % alc/vol; 3,5 g/l r/s; 3.75 pH; 5,6 g/l t/a

2001 (475) **300**

Big wine. Good fruit. Well-structured.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

FREDERICH LAIBACH

cab s/merlot

1999 (476) **250**

First year for Cabernet Sauvignon driven. 75 % matured in new French oak.

Now at its peak. Think well-matured beef.

14 % alc/vol; 2,5 g/l r/s; 3.7 pH; 5,7 g/l t/a

2000 (477) **250**

Almost 100 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Just a dash of Merlot.

Highly accessible and polished.

14 % alc/vol; 2,6 g/l r/s; 3.7 pH; 5,23 g/l t/a

THE DOG LEG 2003 (478) **300**

The Cabernet Savignon-Merlot Range was renamed in 2003.

Small percentage petit verdot and Cabernet franc added.

Savoury wine well suited to red meat and pasta.

14 % alc/vol; 2,4 g/l r/s; 3.71 pH; 5,8 g/l t/a

LE RICHE WINES

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - jonkershoek

*I have known Etienne le Riche for more than thirty years and consider him one of the finest winemakers in the Cape. He was previously the winemaker at Rustenberg in next door Ida's Valley. He also makes wine in Bergerac in France. His French surname says it all – a man without pretence but with a sense of humour. All four the vintages listed can be summarized as **harmony personified!***

LE RICHE CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT

BLEND: cab s/merlot

1998 (480) **400**

Big wine – excellent vintage

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

1999 (481) **300**

Ripe fruit.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

2000 (482) **300**

Concentrated.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

2001 (483) **300**

Powerful.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

LOUISVALE WINES

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch – devon valley

An anecdote: This wine was named after the two owner's champion miniature Schnauzer!

LOUISVALE DOMINIQUE 1998 ()

250

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Earthy and eucalyptus. Tangy plum.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

MEERLUST ESTATE

wo- coastal region – stellenbosch – faure

Meerlust farm has prime examples of Cape vernacular architecture at its best, including the historic manor house built in 1693. The farm has the pride of the Myburgh family since 1756. Today, the traditional dedication to the art of winemaking continues under the guidance of Hannes Myburgh, eighth generation custodian of this seventeenth-century national monument.

MEERLUST RUBICON 1995 (484)

500

BLEND: cab s/merlot/cab f

80 % new French oak – outstanding vintage.

13,5 % alc/vol; 2,1 g/l r/s; 3.69 pH; 5,27 g/l t/a

As a restaurateur I have been asked on many occasions why we include magnums and double magnums on our wine list. The answer is simple. Wine in these bottles matures slower than that in a normal bottle. Secondly, parties from four guests upwards will find that once these have been decanted at your table there is no need to order another bottle which requires more breathing time.

MORGENHOF ESTATE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch – simonsberg

MORGENHOF PREMIÈRE SELECTION

BLEND: cab s/merlot/cab f

These wines are ideal with ostrich, venison and duck, even quail.

1995 Double (3 l) (485)

1500

13,5 alc/vol; 1,6 g/l r/s; 3,79 pH; 6,1 g/l t/a

1997 750 ml (486)

300

13 % alc/vol; 1,5 g/l r/s; 3.76 pH; 6,6 g/l t/a

1997 Double (3 l) (487)

1000

13 % alc/vol; 1,5 g/l r/s; 3.76 pH; 6,6 g/l t/a

1998 750 ml (488)

300

14 % alc/vol; 2 g/l r/s; 3.63 pH; 7,2 g/l t/a

1998 Magnum (1,5 l) (489)

850

14 % alc/vol; 2 g/l r/s; 3.63 pH; 7,2 g/l t/a

2000 750 ml (490)

500

14 % alc/vol; 2,3 g/l r/s; 3,54 pH; 6 g/l t/a

2001 750 ml (491)

500

14 % alc/vol; 2 g/l r/s; 3.44 pH; 6,3 g/l t/a

2003 (3 l) (492)

???

13,75% alc/vol; 2,3 g/l 3,53 r/s; pH; 6,2g/l t/a

2003 (6 l) (493)

???

13,75% alc/vol; 2,3 g/l 3,53 r/s; pH; 6,2g/l t/a

MORGENSTER ESTATE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch – helderberg

Equally famous for wine and olive oil, this farm was named Mill of the Year by L'Extra Virginie and won numerous accolades for both oil and wine. Two ranges of wine are produced, Lourens River Valley, which is Merlot driven, and Morgenster in a more Old World style.

LOURENS RIVER VALLEY

BLEND: merlot/cab s/cab f

1999 (494) **350**

An older generation will call this Claret: Elegant and highly drinkable

13 % alc/vol; 1,5 g/l r/s; 3.6 pH; 5,6 g/l t/a

2000 (495) **350**

Creamy texture.

13,5 % alc/vol; 2,5 g/l r/s; 3.4 pH; 6 g/l t/a

MORGENSTER 2000 (496) **600**

BLEND: cab f/cab s

Cape wine in true French style

14 % alc/vol; 2,5 g/l r/s; 3.55 pH; 5,9 g/l t/a

MURATIE ESTATE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - simonsberg

MURATIE ANSELA VAN DE CAAB

1998 (497) **300**

BLEND: merlot/cab s/dash shiraz

14 % alc/vol; 1,6 g/l r/s; 3.75 pH; 5,5 g/l t/a

2004 (498) **400**

BLEND: merlot/cab s

15 % alc/vol; 2,8 g/l r/s; 3.61 pH; 5,61 g/l t/a

2005 (499) **400**

BLEND: merlot/cab s/dash cab f

15 % alc/vol; 2,86 g/l r/s; 3.7 pH; 5,58 g/l t/a

NEIL ELLIS WINES

wo – coastal region

NEIL ELLIS CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT 2001 (500) **300**

Ripe black berries with emphasis on cassis. Complex.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

NIEL JOUBERT ESTATE

wo – coastal region – paarl - simonsberg

One of the largest of Cape farms with beautiful gardens and great friends of mine. The Jouberts are making friendly wines at affordable prices and 50% of their large production is sold in restaurants.

NIEL JOUBERT CHRISTINE-MARIE 2003 (501) **250**

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Fruit and herb driven. Perfect for lamb dishes.

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,2 g/l r/s; 3.8 pH; 5,4 g/l t/a

NITIDA CELLARS

wo – coastal region - tygerberg - durbanville

NITIDA CALLIGRAPHY 2001 (502) **300**

BLEND: cab s/cab f/merlot

Sweet berry fruit and ripe tannins.

13,5 alc/vol; 2,4 g/l; 3.55 pH; 6,1 g/l t/a

OVERGAAUW ESTATE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch – polkadraai hills

OVERGAAUW TRIA CORDA

BLEND: cab s/merlot/cab f

2000 (503) **250**

Harmonious blend.

13 % alc/vol; 2,1 g/l r/s; 3.3 pH; 6,3 g/l t/a

2001 (504) **250**

Sensational.

14 % alc/vol; 2,2 g/l r/s; 3.5 pH; 5,8 g/l t/a

2005 (magnum) (505) **750**

Extremely concentrated

14 % alc/vol; 2,1 g/l r/s; 3.62 pH; 5,7 g/l t/a

REYNEKE WINES

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch – polkadraai hills

REYNEKE ORGANIC CORNERSTONE 2005 (506) **180**

BLEND: cab/merlot.

From ORGANIC and bio-dynamic vineyards.

Rich blackcurrant perfume

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,2 g/l r/s; 3.83 pH; 5,3 g/l t/a

RUPERT & ROTHSCHILD VIGNERONS

wo – coastal region – paarl - simonsberg

R&R was created as a partnership between the sons of two great international figures: Benjamin de Rothschild, son of Baron Edmond de Rothschild of Chateau Lafitte Rothschild and Anthonij Rupert, the son of great South African industrialist Anton Rupert. Since the creation of this company, Anthonij died in a car accident and both fathers passed away. Currently Baron Benjamin is in partnership with Johan Rupert, CEO of the international luxury goods group Richemont, and sister Hannelie Koegelenberg. The historic French Huguenot Fredericksburg farm in Simondium (est. 1690) was rejuvenated with vineyard improvements, new plantings and the restoration of the farm buildings. Michel Rolland, the great guru from Pomerol, acts as guiding consultant to winemaker Schalk Willem Joubert. R&R became the first winery in South Africa and one of the only few in the world to receive the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Certificate. During early June 2008 on a rainy afternoon, Schalk and I re-tasted Emily's collection of R&R Wines. We relives some of his experiences with the Rupert family, wondered through our beloved Little Karoo and he concluded by saying that the '99 and 2005 (not released yet) vintages were "magic" vintages for Fredericksburg.

R&R BARON EDMOND

1999 (Magnum) (507) **1200**

BLEND: merlot/cab s

Change from all previous merlot-driven bottlings –

Now with top-notch Cabernet Sauvignon in the lead.

14 % alc/vol; 2,4 g/l r/s; 3.7 pH; 6,08 g/l t/a

1999 (508) **600**

BLEND: cab s/merlot

14 % alc/vol; 2,4 g/l r/s; 3.7 pH; 6,08 g/l t/a

2001 (509) **500**

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Big wine. Has now reached readiness for the table.

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,31 g/l r/s; 3.64 pH; 5,6 g/l t/a

2003 (510) **600**

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Great wine. One of the best of the vintage in the Cape.

15,5 % alc/vol; 4 g/l r/s; 3.4 pH; 6,1 g/l t/a

RUSTENBERG – THREE CENTURIES ON ...

The first governor of the Cape of Good Hope, Simon van der Stel, was a wine man. He created the magnificent Constantia on the slopes of Table Mountain and gave his name and that of his wife to create the first town outside of Cape Town - Stellenbosch. (His: Stel and hers Bosch). In 1682 he granted sixty morgen against the Simonsberg in Stellenbosch to Roelof Pasman, a native from the wine region of Meurs near the Rhine in Germany. Pasman died in 1695 and his widow, Sophia van der Merwe, married within a month but was widowed again in 1710. The custom of the time was that marriages had to be conducted within community of property which meant that a property owned by a lady would become that of her husband. Being a widow she could continue running the farm and making Rustenberg wines. Sophia bequeathed Rustenberg to her fifteen year old grandson, Pieter Laubscher, thus circumventing the laws of succession that ruined many Cape farms. Pieter became the lord of the manor at the age of nineteen and soon doubled the wine production of the farm. He decided to move to Cape Town and sold the farm to his son Hendrik. In Cape Town Pieter acted as agent for Rustenberg wines, saving them (in those days) the long journey out to Stellenbosch.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the British invaded the Cape for the second time which meant an increase in wine sales. In the meantime, Jacob Eksteen, took over Rustenberg from his cousin Hendrik. He enlarged the farm house and added a simple pediment gable and place a coin bearing the head of his new sovereign, Georges III, in the foundations. The farm then boasted 100 000 vines with an output ten times more than the original production. He also build a new wine cellar.

Eksteen parted with half of the farm including the section with the farm house originally build by Laubscher, and named the property Schoongezicht (beautiful view). The new owner was his uncle, Hendrik Cloete., The Cloete family later owned Constantia.

Under British rule, wine exports flourished. An official wine taster was appointed at the cape and wine exports between February and April was forbidden, thereby putting a stop to the practise sending the rough new vintage out of the country. Furthermore, English duty on Cape wines, was reduced to half that was levied on wines by Europe, thus creating an increase in demand for Cape wines.

Committed to making fine wine and building gracious houses, brothers-in-law, Albertus van der Byl and Hendrik Cloete set about developing the two farms: Schoongezicht and Rustenberg. Van der Byl erected a new cellar and extensive outbuildings and triples the land under cultivation at Rustenberg. Cloete enlarged and embellished the Schoongezicht homestead. In 1824 Cloete sold Schoongezicht to his cousin Adriaan Philippus Cloete. The following year, his sister-in-law, who had been widowed, and running Rustenberg alone for six years, sold her farm to her brother-in-law Gerhard Hendrik de Wet. De Wet obtained a further grant of 323 morgen, over-extended himself and was declared insolvent.

The next fifty years was characterized by a declining economy and the outbreak of Phylloxera at the Cape. The families were bankrupted and dispossessed. This happened at both Rustenberg and Schoongezicht. In 1892 Schoongezicht was bought by John X Merriman, minister of agriculture in the Cape Parliament and later to become Prime Minister. His brother-in-law, Sir Jacob Barry, Judge President of the Eastern Cape bought Rustenberg.

The Anglo-Boer War brought Ernest Barlow to South Africa. After the war, he returned to Durban, where he established the firm of Thomas Barlow, later to become Barlow-Rand, one of the largest corporations in Southern Africa. His son Peter, purchased Rustenberg in 1940. The farm was in disrepute and the homestead dilapidated. The vines had been uprooted and replaced with fruit trees for the export market. At the outbreak of WWII Peter was send to North Africa and the rebuilt of his farm was left to his wife Pamela. Together with next door Schoongezicht she established a Stellenbosch milk-round. After the war peter had to help his brother "Punch", but he was able to re-unite Rustenberg with Schoongezicht. Peter expanded the jersey herd, developed new vineyards and enlarged the wine cellar on Schoongezicht. Electricity was laid unto the farm for the first time. Rustenberg got its first tractor and then farm manager, Douglas Houston, described it as a "great powerful monster". The wine making was in the capable hands of my friend, Reg Nicholson's father.

In 1949 I visited Rustenberg for the first time. Ten years later I become very friendly with Reg Nicholson, particularly when we both attended church at St Mary's on the Braak (Village greens) in Stellenbosch. During the next decade I witnessed wine making under Nicholson's guidance at the old cellar at Schoongezicht. It was comparison to today's methods, extremely primitive. Huge cement fermentors were in use and punching down the skins was still done by hand. A tap was turned open and the wine ran down a cement sloop through a hole in the wall, lined with a folded piece of corrugated iron, into buckets before being poured into huge oak casks for maturation. These wines through a lot of sediment, were capable of long life and reached the high of drinkability after a couple of decades.

When Reg Nicholson retired, he was succeeded by Etienne le Riche as wine maker. Etienne brought a new style of wine making to the farm and Rustenberg wines were once again the cream of the cape crop. Peter Barlow died in October 1975. Pamela Barlow continued to oversee the running of the farm until her son Simon was ready to take over. Peter and Pam brought Rustenberg and Schoongezicht to fruition. Now it was Simon's opportunity to take the farm to new heights. He looked at all the cultivars, the clones, the wine making practises: then built a gravity fed cellar. Randolph Christians joined the wine team in 1995. Etienne le Riche moved away and was replaced by Adi Badenhorst in 1999 and he and Randolph were joined by Gareth le Grange in 2003. In 2004 Rustenberg was given heritage status with half of its 1200 ha registered with the BWI. The winemaking went from strength to strength. In 2003 the Johan X Merriman won the Calyon Trophée for the best South African Bordeaux blend. This repeated in 2005. 14 500 cases of this quality wine is produced annually. This in itself is a miracle and a testimony to the vigour of Simon Barlow. He regards himself as "caretaker" with the responsibility to leave Rustenberg a better place than he found it! "Completing my father's vision was important to me. Now I have a vision for my sons, and so it continues, just as it has the past three hundred years."

RUSTENBERG WINES

wo – coastal region - stellenbosch - simonsberg

Rustenberg recognized the role of terrior and subsequently created a range of wines to portray the unique Stellenbosch character.

CAB SAUVIGNON-MERLOT-CAB FRANC 1998 (511) 800

Renamed from 1999 (next vintage) as John X Merriman.

Ripe fruit, big time, yet elegant.

13,5 % alc/vol; 1,5 g/l r/s; 3.5 pH; 6 g/l t/a

JOHN X MERRIMAN

2003 (513) 350

Blend now Merlot led. Ripe fruit, ripe tannins. World winning wine.

15 % alc/vol; 2,5 g/l r/s; 3.55 pH; 6,3 g/l t/a

2004 (magnums) (514) 750

Epithamy of the style of the South African blend.

15 % alc/vol; 2,7 g/l r/s; 3.55 pH; 5,9 g/l t/a

2005 (515) 600

merlot/cab s/petit verdot/cab f/malbec.

Once again a world stunner.

For expert palettes: Forward tasting purposes currently.

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,1 g/l r/s; 3.58 pH; 5,7 g/l t/a

SIMONSIG ESTATE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - simonsberg

SIMONSIG TIARA

BLEND: cab s/merlot/petit verdot/cab f

1997 (516)

250

First time Petit verdot inclusion in blend.

Amazing proof of quality from a cool year.

Already 11 years old and still in good shape.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

1998 (517)

300

Bigger than previous. Now soft and quite a few years of maturation ahead.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

SLALEY ESTATE

wo - coastal region – stellenbosch - simonsberg

HUNTING FAMILY CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT 1999 (518)

300

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Maiden vintage under Hunting Family Label. Elegant and fruity.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

SPICE ROUTE WINE COMPANY

wo – coastal region – swartland – malmesbury

Spice Route caused a sensation when winemaker Eben Sadie, offered the wines for the first time. Charles Beck, the owner of Fairview Wine Estate was one of the initial owners and has subsequently Spice Route over and incorporated it into Fairview. The wine on offer here gives the taster a last opportunity to see how this matured over a decade.

SPICE ROUTE CABERNET SAUVIGNON-MERLOT 1999 (519)

350

BLEND: cab s/merlot

Testimony to terrior. Now mellow, but not tired.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

SPRINGFIELD ESTATE

wo – breede river valley - robertson

Owner Abrie Bruwer is a realist. He loves simplicity and therefore has a gravity-flow red wine cellar, no crushers and pumps. His cabernet franc-merlot-cabernet sauvignon and a touch of petit verdot are fermented whole bunch.

SPRINGFIELD THE WORK OF TIME 2001 (520)

500

BLEND: cab f/merlot/cab s/petit verdot

At its peak – simply superb calling on well-matured beef.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

STEENBERG VINEYARDS

wo – coastal region – cape point - constantia

Top notch Cape property with country hotel and golfing estate.

STEENBERG CATHERINA 1999 (521)

500

BLEND: merlot/cab s/shiraz/cab f

Rich berry extract. Savoury and lingering.

13,5 % alc/vol; 1,8 g/l r/s; 3.56 pH; 5,5 g/l t/a

STELLENZICHT VINEYARDS

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - helderberg

One of the most famous producers of Shiraz. Winemaker, Guy Webber, is concerned with balance between vineyard and cellar and between wood, fruit and acid. The 1998 Stellenzicht listed below had been renamed and the blend changed to a Cape blend - also listed (see Blends with Shiraz) – Stellenzicht Rhapsody.

STELLENZICHT STELLENZICHT 1998 (522) **250**

BLEND: cab s/merlot/cab f/malbec

100 % new oak. 26 months in barrel! A sensual experience!

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

THE HIGH ROAD

wo – coastal region - stellenbosch

At present still a boutique winery at Bosman's Crossing. Grapes sourced from Helderberg ward of Stellenbosch.

THE HIGH ROAD RESERVE 2003 (523) **250**

BLEND: cab s/merlot/cab f

Cassis, mulberries, dark plums, mocha spice and some hints of eucalyptus.

Good wine for steak.

13 % alc/vol; 2,2 g/l r/s; 3.87 pH; 5,8 g/l t/a

VEENWOUDE PRIVATE CELLAR

wo – coastal region – paarl

The wines from this private cellar are partly fermented in barrels. This farm has maintained standards over the past sixteen years, which can only be admired.

VEENWOUDE CLASSIC

BLEND: cab s/merlot/cab f

2000 (524) **400**

Initially fruit driven, now an example of classic Bordeaux flavours

14 % alc/vol; 1,8 g/l r/s; 3.5 pH; 5,1 g/l t/a

2001 (525) **500**

Big year, big flavours, hints of spice and coffee.

14 % alc/vol; 2,5 g/l r/s; 3.65 pH; 5,2 g/l t/a

VERGELEGEN

wo - coastal region – stellenbosch - helderberg

Vergelegen has it all: Historic and modern architecture, great wines winning awards around the world and beautiful gardens lined with centuries old trees. The farm is recognized as BWI and even boasts a small herd of Bontebok. Nothing short of a miracle. Winemaker André van Rensburg, proved his skills in both the bottle as well as management with over 2 million accident free hours in his cellar! Since joining Vergelegen in 1998, Andre has continued his pursuit of producing outstanding wines, having twice won the coveted Chateau Pichon Longueville Comtesse de La Lande trophy for the best red blend at the International Wine and Spirits competition in 2001 and 2003. All the wines listed below comprise a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet franc and Merlot.

VERGELEGEN VERGELEGEN

1999 (526) **800**

Most of the grapes came from the slightly warmer Rondekop on the farm.

Succulent.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

2000 (527) **800**

Tones of chocolate

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

VERGELEGEN "V" 2003 (528) **1000**

100 % new oak. Classic, Long finish.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

VILAFONTÉ

wo - coastal region - stellenbosch - papagaaiberg

If ever a winery has received lots of accolades and incredible expectations, then it is Vilafonté. Already in their first year they were voted Winery of the Year by wine enthusiasts. During 2007 they created their cellar at Bosmans Crossing, right at Stellenbosch Station. American Phil Freese and his wife Zelma Long together with Mike Ratcliffe from Warrick and US wine distributor, Bartholomew Broadbend, son of the great Micheal Broadbend from Engeland, has teamed up to create Vilafonté. They have land on the Simonsberg side of Paarl between Fairview and Glen Carlou.

VILAFONTÉ SERIES C 2004 (529)

800

cab s led with merlot/cab f and malbec

This vintage was made at the Tukara cellar at Helshoogte.

Polished wine which will impress connoisseurs of the big upfront style, as well as conservative palettes giving preference to old world styles.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

WARWICK

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - helderberg

Think Warrick, think Norma Ratcliff! She has been at it for more than two decades.

TRILOGY 2005 (532)

500

cab s/cab f/merlot

Used to be Cabernet franc led, but the 2005 is led by Cabernet Sauvignon.

Bold, big and taut.

14,5 % alc/vol; 2 g/l r/s; 3,55 pH; 5,6 g/l t/a

cape blends

There are two schools of thought on what a Cape blend is. There are some winemakers with a strong leaning towards Pinotage, preferring a Cape blend to reflect South Africa's own grape variety. On the other hand there are those who prefer that Shiraz, because of its suitability to South African wine terrior, be used in the blend. I subscribe to both schools of thought and therefore list them separately.

CLOS MALVERNE

wo - coastal region - stellenbosch - devon valley

CLOS MALVERNE AURET CABERNET SAUVIGNON-PINOTAGE

BASKET PRESS CAPE BLEND LIMITED RELEASE 2001 (540) **400**

Unfiltered - to be decanted.

Extremely limited. Full-bodied red blend.

Complex. Blackcurrant and spicy aroma. At its peak!

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

CLOS MALVERNE AURET CABERNET SAUVIGNON-PINOTAGE

BASKET PRESS CAPE BLEND

1999 (541) **300**

Produced from very old vines. Award-winning.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

2000 (542) **300**

Cassis. Some Merlot. Expressive!

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

GRANGEHURST WINERY

wo - coastal region - stellenbosch - helderberg

It is now almost two decades ago that Jeremy Walker produced his maiden vintage in the squash court on his parent's small farm on the way to Somerset-West. I admire Jeremy. *Nikela* is Xhosa word, meaning "tribute" - Jeremy's tribute to his parents.

GRANGEHURST NIKELA

BLEND: pinotage/cab s/merlot

1998 (543) **400**

This decade old blend proves to the anti-Pinotage contingent just how great a Pinotage driven blend can be!

13,5 % alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

2001 (544) **350**

Flavoursome and meaty.

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,3 g/l r/s; 3,52 pH; 6,5 g/l t/a

KAAPZICHT ESTATE

wo - coastal region - stellenbosch - bottelary

STEYTLER RANGE VISION

BLEND: pinotage/cab s/merlot

2000 (545) **400**

This is the first ever release of this multi-awarded flagship wine.

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,4 g/l r/s; 3,51 pH; 5,5 g/l t/a

2001 (546) **600**

Contains more Pinotage than previous.

Blockbuster FIVE-STAR rating in Platter. Gold Medal winner Concours Mondial.

15 % alc/vol; 1,8 g/l r/s; 3,58 pH; 5,9 g/l t/a

REMHOOGTE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - simonsberg

It is now just over a decade ago since the partnership of the Boustred family represented by Murray and French wine guru Michel Rolland, produced their first wine on Remhoogte. Monsieur Rolland advises more than a hundred wineries worldwide, while Auguste Natter flies in from Sancerre for the harvest.

BONNE NOUVELLE 2002 (547)

500

BLEND: merlot/pinotage/cab s

Gold Medal winner of the Concours Mondial. Polished, elegant wine.

15 % alc/vol; 2,6 g/l r/s; 3,6 pH; 5,4 g/l t/a

STELLENRUST

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch -

*Another old Cape farm completely rejuvenated by owners Tertius Boshoff and Kobie van der Westhuizen. Picalot refers to the three components of the wine: **PI**notage, **CA**bernet Sauvignon and Mer**LOT***

JJ HANDMADE WINES PICALOT 2005 (548)

200

BLEND: pinotage/cab s/merlot

17 months in 80 % new French oak. Manly and meant for steak.

13,5 % alc/vol; 2,3 g/l r/s; 3,56 pH; 6,2 g/l t/a

WARWICK ESTATE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - simonsberg

WARRICK THREE CAP LADIES 2004 (549)

250

BLEND: pinotage/ cab s/merlot/shiraz

Yummy!

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,3 g/l r/s; 3,59 pH; 5,7 g/l t/a

blends with shiraz

Winemakers, in their search for a typical Cape blend, rejected Pinotage and gave preference to Shiraz as blending partner to Cabernet Sauvignon. Some include Merlot and Cinsaut. Under this heading I have also included the Rhône inspired blends of Shiraz, Mourvèdre and Grenache.

BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF

wo – coastal region – paarl – franschhoek valley

High up against the mountain the porcupines run wild. An down in the cellar the seven partners in this winery are depicted by seven wooden chairs on the label.

THE CHOCOLATE BLOCK 2006 (555) **600**

BLEND: shiraz/cab s/grenache/cinsaut/dash viognier

Shiraz drive. Dark textured and ripe.

15 % alc/vol; 2,3 g/l r/s; 3,89 pH; 5,8 g/l t/a

COLERAINE WINES

wo – coastal region – paarl – voor paardeberg

CULRAITHIN FIRE ENGIN RED 2005 (556) **180**

BLEND: shiraz/merlot

Ready to be enjoyed.

14 % alc/vol; 4,74 g/l r/s; 3,63 pH; 5,6 g/l t/a

FLATROOF MANOR

wo – coastal region

*The Flatroof Manor Range is made by Estelle Lourens of **Uitkyk**, where these wines can also be tasted. This screw-capped range is described as “Laid-back, unpretentious and quirky”*

SHIRAZ-MOUVÈDRE 2005 (557) **120**

BLEND: shiraz/mourvèdre

Light spice on red fruit. Ready to enjoyed now. Also good with Cheese.

13.5 % alc/vol; 2,3 g/l r/s; 3.47 pH; 5,37 g/l t/a

INGWE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - helderberg

AMELHO 2002 (558) **300**

BLEND: cab s/shiraz/merlot/malbec

Classy.

14 % alc/vol; 1,6 g/l r/s; 3,7 pH; 5,2 g/l t/a

MONT DU TOIT KELDER

wo – coastal region – paarl - wellington

MONT DU TOIT LE SOMMET 1998 (559) **500**

BLEND: shiraz/cab s/merlot/cab f

UNFILTERED - DECANTING REQUIRED

Produced from selected blocks, in selected barrels and also

Only in selection vintages. Very much the crown bearer.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

MONT DU TOIT 1999 (560) **300**

BLEND: shiraz/cab s/merlot/cab f

Packed fruit.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

NICO VAN DER MERWE WINES

wo – coastal region - stellenbosch

Nico van der Merwe believes that The Cape blend should be Shiraz with Cabernet Sauvignon rather than with Pinotage. Currently the Shiraz for the blend comes from Botriver and the Cabernet Sauvignon from the Simonsberg area in Stellenbosch.

MAS NICHOLAS 1999 (561)

400

BLEND: shiraz/cab s

Tender tannins – herbs and spice.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

RUST EN VREDE ESTATE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - helderberg

Another historic Cape Estate with an amazing setting. Son, Jean, has taken over from father, Jannie. This farm forms part of the so-called Golden Triangle against the Helderberg. Over the years they have scored high points in Decanter magazine.

ESTATE WINE

BLEND: cab s/shiraz/merlot

1994 (562)

600

The magic year of the Nineties!

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

1995 (563)

600

Reflecting slightly cooler vintage.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

2000 (565)

700

Solid structure. A modern classic.

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,4 g/l r/s; 3,66 pH; 5,8 g/l t/a

2003 (566)

700

Dense with amazing good tannins.

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,9 g/l r/s; 3,62 pH; 7,1 g/l t/a

SADIE FAMILY

wo – coastal region – swartland - malmesbury

*“The family” refers to winemakers/viticulturists, Eben and Nico Sadie. Eben was a child wonder in the South African wine set-up when he produced incredibly great wines at **Spice Route**. Eben also makes wine in Spain and at **Sequillo Cellars** in the Swartland, where he produces very exciting white and red blends. See next entry.*

COLUMELLA 2000 (567)

800

BLEND: shiraz/mouvèdre

Only 17 barrels were made. This wine was a sensation and Decanter magazine the later vintage of 2005 as one of the best wines ever made in South Africa!

A rare experience.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

SEQUILLO CELLARS

wo – coastal region – swartland - ??????????????

SEQUILLO RED 2004 (568)

400

BLEND: shiraz/mouvèdre/grenache

Soft tannins, long finish.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

SLALEY ESTATE

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - simonsberg

Slaley is named after Slaley Hall in Newcastle, England, where owner Lindsay Hunting's ancestors built the family shipping business from 1874. The estate also hosts an annual jazz festival. Two ranges of wine are produced: The Hunting Family Range and the Broken Stone Range.

BROKEN STONE 2000 (569) **250**

BLEND: cab s/shiraz

A charming wine made for the drinking.

13,5 % alc/vol; 2,1 g/l r/s; 3,5 pH; 5,1 g/l t/a

STELLENZICHT

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - helderberg

RHAPSODY 2002 (570) **350**

BLEND: Shiraz/pinotage

Fruitful exercise in fruitiness

14,5 % alc/vol; 2,7 g/l r/s; 3.24 pH; 5,8 g/l t/a

TRIPLET 1999 (571) **200**

BLEND: merlot/shiraz/cab f/cab s/malbec

Merlot driven classic and savoury. Pocket pleaser for Venison

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

WILLIAM EVERSON WINES

wo – coastal region - paarl

WILLIAM EVERSON SHIRAZ-MOURVEDRE 2005 (572) **200**

From a boutique winery on the main road in Paarl.

Elegant mulberry fruit.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

creative blends

Under this heading I have grouped wines (within the South African context) with unusual, even unique combinations. There is a combination of Italian cultivars on their own or some of them in other combinations, even with classic cultivars. There is a combination of Pinotage, Shiraz, Grenache and a dash of Cinsaut . And more...

BACKSBERG ESTATE CELLARS

wo – coastal region - ?????

ELBAR 2006 (580)

300

BLEND: malbec/mourvèdre/sangiovese/syrah/zinfandel/viognier

Medley of flavours – herbs, dried fruit and potpourri.

Fermented and lightly pressed to make a fruity, lighter wine.

Good with summer-style Mediterranean inspired food.

15 % alc/vol; 3,2 g/l r/s; 3.6 pH; 5,8 g/l t/a

DARLING CELLARS

wo - coastal region - darling - groenekloof

Darling cellars are a success story and is owned by 24 shareholders. They export more than half a million cases a year. Pinotage plays a very important part and increasingly also Shiraz.

ONYX KROON 2000 (581)

250

BLEND: shiraz/pinotage/grenache with dash of cinsaut

Cultivars united with age into harmonious whole

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

FLAGSTONE WINERY

wo – western cape

FLAGSTONE GEORGES BLEND STRATA 2000 (582)

250

BLEND: pinot noir/merlot

A Discovery from our holding cellar!

Light berry with intergrating oaking.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

NEDERBURG WINES

wo – coastal region - paarl

*All roads lead to Nederburg. It did indeed also for me, I have been a guest on the farm during the 60's, attended the first Nederburg auction and shared with a previous winemaker, Günter Brözel, the first **Nederburg Edelkeur**.*

INGENUITY 2005 (583)

600

BLEND: sangiovese/barbera/nebbiolo

Brand new to Nederberg and first time on our wine list.

A wine of great distinction ringing the bells for the future.

% alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

RIDGEMOR FARM

wo – coastal region – stellenbosch - faure

I have heard via the grape that this farm is producing a stand-apart Pinot Noir. I have not been to the farm and do not know anything about their vineyards or wine-making practises, except that the wines are made at Kleine Zalze. When I tasted 30 different wines blind the blend from this boutique winery, included here, impressed me.

RIDGEMOR PINOT NOIR–SHIRAZ–CABERNET FRANC 2005 (584)

120

BLEND: pinot noir/shiraz/cab f

Unusual blend – unusual taste sensation.

14,5 % alc/vol; g/l r/s; pH; g/l t/a

EENVOUDIGE, SELFS SENTIMENTELE WOORDE BY DIE VRA VAN DIE SEËN OP DIE OES... MURATIE 22 FEBRUARIE 2000

GRACE BEFORE:

*Bless, o Lord, before we dine
Each dish of food
Each cup of wine
And bless our hearts
That we may be
Aware of what we owe to Thee*

2000. 'n Nuwe duisend jaar wag op Afrika. Een waar honger en ellende tot vyande verklaar word en oorwin moet word. En een waar gebruike uit baie kulture mekaar bevriend. Daarom is dit nie vreemd dat ons, vanaand, op eg Westerse wyse die seën op vanjaar se oes vra nie.

Oes? In die kelder hiernaas gis druiwesap op doppe en stingels om later, helder as wyne, op tafels in die Boland, in ons land en vêr buite ons grense vreugde te bring.

Therefore we are gathered here in praise of food and wine. And to celebrate long standing friendships. Friendship without duty. True friendships. Not ersatz love that is a craving to add more drama to the drama of existence. More truth rather than mere truth. Like the truth of Picasso. And, by the way, also like Goethe.

Dankjê vir donkerrooi krewes van Kommetjie, oorlangs oopgesny, bstryk met geil-geel Jersey-botter aangemaak met die suur sap van suurlemoen en die vlugtige olie van die skif, wat onder elemente van oondroosters tot pasmaat van Chardonnay gerooster word. Here, seën die Chardonnay. and...bless it for limpet and perriwinkle pie.

Maar Heer, wyn is mense en in wyn ontdek ons waarheid.

Daarom, seën die kropslaai en soetrissies van die Kaapse Vlakte – ons Kaapse spens.

Seën vir Jan en Marjorie by Onrus waar hulle uit selei jellie maak en seën die vissermanne van Waenhuiskrans wat op U woeste seë vaar om later, veilig op land, gewapen met 'n (kan) Oom Tas, galjoen oop te vlek en stadig oor die kole tot groot genade braai.

Waar die winter se reëns oor die rûens van die Overberg waai-waai neersloep en in eenvoudige huise aan Oom-en-Tantesop met vars soetsuurdeegbrood by kerslig geslurp word, word ook daar U dank besing. Wanneer die mens U erkên.

Bless, O Lord, the creamy soles of Mossel Bay, the green, almost blue-green broccoli of the Southern Cape. And let the pineapples lead us to discover flavour nuances in many ways.

Laat die pap en inifimo wat met gestoofde boerboek in die Transkei voorgesit word, help om 'n ondervoede gemeenskap aan te spoor om uit te klim bo die berge van onwetenheid. Laat die tropiese vrugte en die maroelas mense van oral oor die aarde lok om in die Laeveld en Bosveld te kom kuier sodat ons mense kan werk en verdien.

From Natal we enjoy wild mushrooms – kophwê, fried in the fat of the wild flying ants and food so spicy and fiery that at times the tears roll from our eyes.

Daar waar Elizabeth Eybers gesê het U niks meer as die vrede van U voleindiging kan laat nie, maar waar beeskrake deesdae rooivleis van uitmuntende gehalte lewer, ook daar waar baie harte nog beswaard is, moet U nie U seëninge weghou nie. Seën Heer, die vleis wat pasmaat is vir volbloed rooiwyne.

Vir Sauvignon Blanc is daar aspersies uit die Oos-Vrystaat en vir die maand van U geboorte Heer, kersies, geel en rooi en ryp, en verleidelik met likeur gestowe en met roomys as feesgereg voorgesit. Seën Heer die drag...en die genieting.

Waar U Vallei van Verlatenheid waghou oor die eindelose vlaktes met Marino's en Dorpers en waar manne groot word nadat hulle hul eerste Karoo-oester geëet het, moet U seën mildelik val. En Heer, gee dat kaitings hul weg vind in outydse soetkroekies.

En in my eie wêreld, my Kannaland, my Klein Karoo, met sy groot hart, moet U asseblief die hael weghou sodat die Royals oranjeryp kan word vir jêm-op-brood.

Seën elke slagdag in Namakwaland, elke vetderm, elke Pofadder. Seën Muratie se Amber.

Gee ons brood uit die Swartland. Soet en suur en suur-suur en met rog en hawer en volkoring. Breek die brood vir ons almal Heer.

En hier, Heer, hier op Muratie in die oorvloedshoring van die Boland moet U nie die stem van die "TIER" van die Simonsberg stil maak nie. Laat Ronnie met 'n glimlag van plesier neerkyk op die Cabernet van Muratie. Laat hom die bessies in die wyn ruik, laat die tanniene ryp wees en die trosse op die regte oomblik die parskuip binnegaan. Gee aan die Cabernet Franc daardie dun lyn van net genoeg kruie. Laat die Merlot speserye en vrugtegeure met vanielje paar, laat die diep geheimenisse van U aarde daarin opklink. Mag die Muscat suiwer speserye wees en die Chardonnay se botter verhelder wees en die verskillende Port variëteite saamsmelt in 'n pyp eenheid.

SEËN HEER DIE OES VAN 2000.

NAWOORD – 'n aanhaling uit M.M. Walters :

*"Die wingerd het sy laaste natros afgegee
En een vir een kom die plukkers huistoe
Vaal spikkels in die plaaspad*

Vitgedors

En sonder die somer se verwagting

*Die plaasklok sing sy slotgesang wat hang oor die vroeë kalmte
Tarentale skrik en luister*

*Iewers in die koel kelders
Gis die sap tot klaarte*

Stil en helder."

DANKWOORD –

EK was bevoorreg om vir Ronnie te ken en die teelaarde waaruit hy gekom het. EK verstaan so 'n bietjie van sy bloedlyn. Weet selfs ietsie van Hildagonda. Het W.C. Winshaw geken. Van Winshaw het ek geleer: NĒ CĒDĒ MALIS – Never yield to misfortune. So ook Ronnie. Daarom: Gesondheid!

Gesondheid vir Annetjie en vir die kinders en hulle kinders. Vir die wynmaker. Gesondheid vir die plaas se werkers. Gesondheid vir Ansela, vir Annemarie.

Gesondheid vir die wyne van 2000.

In Vino Veritas.

Dankbede –

With thankful hearts, o Lord we ask that we

May never dine without remembering Thee

And grateful for our comfortable state

May never leave no Lazarus hungry at the gate

PETER VELDSMAN