

Wine @



THE TWELVE APOSTLES HOTEL AND SPA

Wine is one of my biggest passions in life. Being situated in the Western Cape, we are spoilt to have many of the finest Vineyards in the world directly on our doorstep.

Our wine list comprises of some of the finest wines and vintages in South Africa for you to savor.

We take a holistic approach to wine here at the hotel as the food and beverage team have a most exciting job of tasting and debating the wines that feature on our wine selection carefully sourced from a plethora of excellent wines produced both locally and internationally. With all the support, I am delighted compiling this wine list and updating it according to the trends and our chefs menu. It is our belief that a good plate of food can only reach its full potential if paired with a wine that supports the Chefs delicate creation – in either complementing or contrasting its flavours.

We are also very fortunate to be associated with the Bouchard Finlayson Boutique Winery whose winemaker Peter Finlayson is considered to be one of the pack leaders in South Africa when it comes to Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The entire collection is featured in this list with many older and sought after vintages available for your enjoyment.

I would be delighted to recommend wines from our comprehensive wine selection to meet your taste and expectations. I would like to contribute in making your dining experience a truly memorable one as we have quality wines even for the most discerning palates.

“We trust you will enjoy our carefully selected wine list, and due to the research that has gone into this extensive compilation, regret that we do not allow corkage.”

Yours in Wine

Gregory Mutambe
Sommelier for the Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa

Contents Page

Wine	Page
Wine Lands of South Africa	3
Bouchard Finlayson Boutique Vineyards	4
Served by the Glass	7
Wine Flights	8
Cap Classique	9
Champagne	10
Chardonnay	14
Sauvignon Blanc	17
Sémillon	18
Chenin Blanc	19
Riesling, Viognier, Other Varieties	20
White Blends	21
Rose	22
Red Carnation Cellar Collection	23
Cabernet Sauvignon	24
Merlot	25
Pinot Noir	26
Shiraz	27
Pinotage	28
Red Blends	29
Other Varieties	32
Dessert Wines	33
Port & Sherry & Fortified Wines	34
Digestives	
Single Malt	35
Blended Whiskies & Bourbon	36
Cognac & Brandy	37
Water	38
Information / Wine in South Africa	
Varieties & Styles at a Glance	39
South African Vintages	42



Most of the Cape's winegrowing regions are influenced by one of the two mighty oceans which meet at this southernmost tip of Africa: the Atlantic and the Indian oceans. Combine beneficial maritime influences like regular coastal fog and cooling sea breezes with a moderate Mediterranean climate, distinctive and varied topography, and diverse soils, and you have the ideal conditions in which to create wines of unique character and complexity. Coupled with this, a winemaking tradition and history dating back more than 350 years blends the restrained elegance of the Old World with the accessible fruit-driven styles of the New, making for wines which eloquently express the unique terroir of the Cape. No wonder that this extraordinary wealth of natural assets and tradition should instill South Africa's wines with a true sense of place.

Currently around 101 325 hectares of vines producing wine grapes are under cultivation over an area some 800 kilometres in length. Under the auspices of the Wine of Origin Scheme, production zones in the Cape winelands are divided into officially demarcated regions, districts and wards. There are four main regions – Breede River Valley, Coastal, Klein Karoo and Olifants River, encompassing 21 diverse districts and some 64 smaller wards, including exciting newer ones like Elim near the southernmost tip of Africa, Cape Agulhas.



BOUCHARD FINLAYSON

A BOUTIQUE WINERY

Our proud association with this estate has allowed us to offer to you some of the finest wines in the Southern Hemisphere. Multi-award winning wine maker Peter Finlayson brings to you Burgundian-inspired varieties, sought after wines which promise a style of elegance and flavour that will certainly surprise and delight.

Established in 1989 in the temperate Hemel-en-Aarde (Heaven and Earth) Valley, 120km southeast of Cape Town, just outside the coastal town of Hermanus - lies 125 hectares (312 acres) of Walker Bay's prime viticultural land, Bouchard Finlayson Vineyard and Winery is a small cellar dedicated to the quality production of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. Today, owned by the Tollman family, and under the leadership of Victoria Tollman and Peter Finlayson – regarded as the pioneer of Pinot Noir in South Africa, the name Bouchard Finlayson has been internationally synonymous with excellence.

Vines are planted on gentle slopes in a north-south direction, which takes advantage of the daily travel of sunlight from east to west and ensures equitable sunlight exposure. Vineyard practices are in keeping with planting and trellising methods of the most respected French wine-producing areas, with vine density exceeding 9000 vines per hectare. More than 50% of the vineyard is dedicated to Pinot Noir.

The climate of Walker Bay is largely influenced by the nearby, cold Atlantic Ocean rendering it one of the coolest wine growing areas in the Cape. The valley is surrounded and sheltered by a mountain barrier, formed by Galpin Peak (810 meters) and the Tower of Babel (1200 meters), which traps the cloud cover and moisture brought in from the sea by the prevailing wind. Summer conditions are consequently warm rather than hot, and winter conditions are mild and frost-free. The sea breezes work to keep vines cool thereby encouraging slow ripening and flavour-rich grapes - all you need to make world-class wines!



White Blend

Gls Btl

Bouchard Finlayson - Blanc de Mer 2010 R50 R195

It has a deep colour with a very full palate feel. Very rich with tastes of peaches, quinces and pear which all blend to provide a strong and lengthy finish.

Numerous tastings have offered it every opportunity not to be humble. Perhaps the most noteworthy accolade was Stephen Spurrier's top rating in Decanter Magazine (May 2009) where he nominated the Blanc de Mer as the new world's best white! This vintage enjoyed dry conditions with low cropping levels being offered.

Sauvignon Blanc

Bouchard Finlayson 2010 R60 R235

This wine has a strong vibrant aroma, tropical fruits of pineapple, litchi and granadilla. This is followed by a firm crisp palate signaling a determined structure with paralleled fruit. Also some guava and pear. Crisp and herbaceous finish with lingering fruit.

Bouchard Finlayson - Reserve 2010 R295

This wine is dry, but notably fruity with cantaloupe, gooseberry and white pepper, garnished with complex secondary tropical notes, leading to a crisp, savoury and lasting sumptuous finish! This wine has been made with the express purpose of ageing and it is anticipated that it will offer great reward for at least five years.

Chardonnay

Bouchard Finlayson - Sans Barrique 2010 R70 R270

Unoaked, fresh, refreshing lime and lemony palate with soft acid and fine fruit structure. Flinty and dry finish complemented by loads of strong mineral flavours.

These grapes originate from the tall mountains behind the village of Villiersdorp. Conditions through growing season were dry which presented a small harvest of concentrated fruit.

Bouchard Finlayson - Kaaimansgat 2009 R75 R295

Packed with minerally tight fruit flavours of pear, peaches and litchis resting on over-laying hints of oak, vanilla and autolized yeasts. Strong nutty components will evolve over time to create complexity and enhanced flavours.

Prepared in classic Burgundian fashion and then matured "sur lie" for eight months in traditional 228 liters barriques.

Bouchard Finlayson - Limited Edition Kaaimansgat 2009 R385

A Limited Edition wine is about moving away from standardisation. This Chardonnay is an unusual tweak where the blend functions through marrying two opposite styles of wine. The style is classic, cool climate Chardonnay with voluptuous bright authoritative fruit tones layered on harmonious oak flavours, all balanced in a synonymous elegance!

Bouchard Finlayson - Missionvale 2009 R395

This wine presents pages of different taste sensations. First creamy yeast, followed by mild wood tones surrounded by vanilla and aromatic layers of apricot and cantaloupe. Finally resonating a long citrus and quince finish. Longevity and ageing will enhance "Boutique" barrel makers Tonnellerie Mayrieux of Nuits St. George have provided added security in supporting with only the finest hand crafted Burgundian barrels.

Red Blend

Gls Btl

Bouchard Finlayson - Hannibal 2008 R135 R510

A story tale in a bottle. This is it. Peter Finlayson introduces to us a remarkable story of Hannibal; the Conqueror who successfully crossed the French Alps, from Italy. This, rather unusual, yet exciting bovine is South Africa's very first Sangiovese-led blend with Pinot Noir, Barbera, Nebiolo and Shiraz. A well integrated blend, medium bodied wine with intensified fruit of stewed prunes, Christmas cake and black cherries. This is one wine that will make you want to relive and era you never lived.

Pinot Noir

Galpin Peak	1997	R650
Galpin Peak	1999	R620
Galpin Peak	2006	R455
Galpin Peak	2008	R150 R650

This bottling is rich with luscious soft tannins and dark-coloured forest fruits, deftly balanced on a cord of lingering plum and raspberry delights. Expected to age with appealing composure. □□Bouchard Finlayson was awarded the Trophy for the Wine of the Year for our Galpin Peak Pinot Noir, scoring 97.5% in the newly launched web based South African Supérieur Wine Rating Index (SASWRI) - a world first.

Galpin Peak 1.5L	2001	R1200
Galpin Peak 1.5L	2006	R950
Galpin Peak 3L	2004	R2250

Tête de Cuvée	1996	R2150
Tête de Cuvée	1997	R2150
Tête de Cuvée	1999	R2150
Tête de Cuvée	2001	R950
Tête de Cuvée	2002	R2150
Tête de Cuvée	2005	R2150
Tête de Cuvée	2006	R2150
Tête de Cuvée	2007	R1455

Tête de Cuvée reflects the winemaker's opportunity to create a blend from a handful of chosen, best barrels in the cellar from a particular vintage. Not every vintage presents suitable quality for this selection. It is a black fruit driven Pinot noir boasting flavours of mulberries, plums and violets and lingers with a nutty fullness and good tannins.

CWG Pinot Noir	2007	R2400
CWG Pinot Noir 1.5L	2007	R6200

CWG stands for Cape Winemakers Guild which holds an annual wine auction where wines from their 40-odd members being auctioned. This is considered as the South African showcase of high end quality wines. This wine is selected from barrels of the Tete de Cuvee that was no doubt produced in one of the best vintages of this century.

I will gladly brief you on the individual characteristics.

Served by the glass

SPARKLING WINE

Nederburg Cuvee Brut	NV	R30
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METHOD CAP CLASSIQUE & CHAMPAGNE

Miss Molly MCC	NV	R40
Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel MCC	2009	R45
Pierre Jourdan Belle Rose MCC	NV	R60
Guy Cadel Brut Champagne	NV	R115

WHITE WINE

Bouchard Finlayson Blanc de Mer – White Blend	2010	R50
Bouchard Finlayson – Sauvignon Blanc	2010	R60
Anura - Sauvignon Blanc	2011	R35
Backsberg – Chardonnay	2009	R45
Bouchard Finlayson Kaaimansgat – Chardonnay	2009	R75
Bouchard Finlayson Sans Barrique – Chardonnay	2010	R70
Waterford Pecan Stream - Chenin Blanc	2011	R35
Buitenverwachting – Riesling	2010	R40
Bovlei – Beaukett	2009	R25

ROSE WINE

Grangehurst Cape Rosé Blend	2009	R35
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RED WINES

Bouchard Finlayson Hannibal – Red Blend	2008	R135
Graham Beck – Cabernet Sauvignon	2007	R65
Groote Post - Merlot	2010	R60
Glen Carlou - Pinot Noir	2009	R90
Bouchard Finlayson Galpin Peak – Pinot Noir	2008	R150
Simonsig - Pinotage	2008	R50
Annex Kloof Morkel - Malbec	2008	R65
Boekenhoutskloof Porcupine Ridge - Syrah	2010	R40

SWEET WINES

Waterford Heatherleigh NLH	NV	R50
Klein Constantia Vin de Constance	2005	R120
Vondeling Straw wine	2006	R60

Flights of Wine

*Fasten your seat belt and explore the world of Wines. Join us in a vinous flight to sample and compare some of South Africa's best wines. Side by side expertly presented by Gregory our Sommelier.
As an aperitif or with your meal – a wine experience awaits you!*

The Sense of Bouchard Finlayson R110
Let me introduce you to a tasting which captures the soul of Bouchard Finlayson.

A Journey of Sauvignons R65
This will display the diversity of South Africa's wine regions and the versatility of Sauvignon Blanc.

The Gentle Giants R85
Full bodied yet extremely refined and elegant. These wines are at their optimum drinking stage.

What's Hip, Hot & Trendy R70
Wines that break with traditions! A selection of wines from our most eccentric, adventurous and unorthodox wine makers.

A Vinous First Class Flight R145
A selection of my favourite wines that will leave you satisfied that South African Wines are world class!

Gregory's menu and wine pairing tips

Crayfish and Prawn Cocktail

Crayfish and Queen prawn cocktail with fresh lettuce, rocket, avocado and lime segments, dressed with a piquant Marie rose sauce.

Recommended wine: Iona Sauvignon Blanc 2010

Carpaccio

Seared Beef Carpaccio with a drizzle of truffle oil and parmesan.

Recommended wine: Ataraxia Chardonnay 2009

Grilled Seafood Platter

Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa's, "must do platter" packed with a great selection of fresh seafood.

Recommended wine: Bouchard Finlayson Blanc de Mer 2010

Roasted Quail

Quail with roasted garlic risotto, red wine reduction, king oyster mushroom with its puree.

Recommended wine: Newton Johnson Pinot Noir 2009

Methodé Cap Classique

Robertson

Graham Beck Brut NV R270

When you talk South African bubbly, Peter Ferreira is the center of that conversation. A specialist and well respected individual who is so inspirational into pushing all limits about the quality of MCC's. This is a blend of Chardonnay and Pinot noir. Prominent yeast flavours rounded off by subtle biscuit and green apple tones.

Pongrácz NV R250

Named after a very well known Hungarian viticulturist Desiderius Pongrácz, the late Chief Advisor to Distell. Pongrácz is a bubbly that never disappoints. Baked apple spiced with a shot of lime and the mousse to match.

Pongrácz Rosé NV R295

Recently added to the Pongrácz family a delightful rose, and summer would not be summer with out a little tippie of Pink bubbles. Composed of the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, this enticing brut rosé has wonderful black berry fruit flavours and delicate yeasty tones that linger long on the palate.

Franschhoek

Môreson - Solitaire NV R235

Owner Richard Friedman is a man with a vision and winemaker Clayton Reabow is the man to implement that vision. With Chardonnay being both of their first loves, a very fresh, crisp wine with layers of lovely pear and orange zest. The Chardonnay gives this wine a unique grapefruit character while Chenin adds an elegant green apples and guava character.

Pierre Jourdan - Belle Rosé NV R310

Winemaker Achim van Arruim is a man of charisma and talent. Well known throughout the Cape for sabrage – a very old French tradition of opening a sparkling wine with a saber. This is a kind of bubbly that is known to tease and satisfy all palates. 100% Pinot with red onion skin colour, raspberry and cranberry flavors with soft acidity, making it a good accompaniment to dishes, most especially our chefs crisp ,oven roasted duck.

Stellenbosch

Simonsig - Kaapse Vonkel 2009 R260

The house of innovations. The Malan brothers have never been shy to try something new, a point proven successfully in this lovely brut. Simonsig Brut is the very first MCC ever produced in South Africa, and one of very few where the vintage is specific. Vibrant mousse and zesty acidity balanced with apple pie and biscuit characters.

Waterford Brut 2000 R795

Kevin Arnold's one off attempt as a tribute to the millennium and what a tribute it turned out to be, the rarest and most exclusive of South African bubbly. The wine has a rich mousse and multi-layered flavours ranging from peach and apricot to dried fruits as a result of great development.

Sparkling Wines

Du Toitskloof Brut Rawsonville NV R135
Very easy drinking fruity bubbly

Nederburg - Cuvée Brut Paarl NV R145
Crisp, dry and refreshing.

Champagne

Non Vintage

Laurent Perrier - Brut NV R1150

Founded in 1812, Laurent-Perrier has been avant-garde in creating unique and elegant Champagnes for nearly two hundred years making it one of the world's most esteemed Champagne brands, and also the largest family-owned brand.

Laurent Perrier - Ultra Brut NV R1350

With nearly equal parts of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, Ultra Brut is made exclusively with grapes from very ripe harvests. Selection is rigorous to ensure that only grapes with both high sugar levels and low acidity are used. This is essential as there is no dosage added. The second fermentation on yeast lasts at least four years.

Laurent Perrier Methuselah 6L NV R5400

Bernard Girardin NV R850

This Champagne is a blend of 60% Chardonnay, 30% Meunier and 10% Pinot Noir. It charms the palate with its lightness and finesse; its subtle fruit brings a pleasing softness and style.

Bollinger - Special Cuvée NV R1250

A big champagne that is rich and yeasty. The unique yeasty nose comes from extra ageing time on the lees. It has a great depth...James Bond deserved it and so do you.

Guy Cadel - Brut NV R555

Specially labeled under The Twelve Apostle Hotel logo, this excellent French Champagne is wonderfully fruity with a clean crisp and dry finish.

Krug - Grande Cuvée NV R3500

The bouquet is wonderfully creamy, leading to magical combination of weight and balance on the palate. The long, lingering finish is both nutty and toasty, ending with a final flourish of freshness leaving one longing for more.

Louis Roederer - Brut NV R1250

Light golden colour it boasts a smooth full mouth. This elegant champagne is a delicate balance of fruit and acidity, an outstanding example of this great house.

Möet et Chandon - Brut Impérial NV R1250

Brut Impérial is a balanced assemblage of the three vine varieties in Champagne. A gentle silkiness and finesse inspired by excellent fruitiness.

Möet et Chandon - Brut Impérial 1.5L NV R1750

Ruinart Brut NV R1585

A very delicate, fresh, and fruity nose, showing notes of white fruits mainly pear. Beautiful intensity. Taste harmonious, vivacious and lively wine. Well-balanced, Full, with aromas of ripe fruits. A pleasant, lengthy finish.

Veuve Clicquot - Yellow Label NV R1400

It has a fine persistent sparkle and golden Champagne colour. Its complex nose of apple, citrus and caramel is followed by full flavours with elegance, crispness and a slightly spicy finish.

Champagne

Rose

Laurent Perrier NV R1800

Laurent-Perrier's technical facilities are dedicated to the making of the Cuvée Rosé. Grapes from carefully selected plots are then meticulously sorted and destemmed before going into the vats. Controlled maceration — lasting from 48 to 72 hours depending on the harvest — helps the extraction of color and the development of the full aromatic richness of the Pinot Noir. It is aged in the cellars for at least four years.

Laurent-Perrier - Alexandra 1998 R7200

This Champagne is made with grapes sourced from the most prestigious vineyards. There is a short maceration period during which Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes are blended together to obtain the Champagne's delicate color and unique, complex aromas. The second fermentation on the yeasts lasts between five and ten years, depending on the characteristics of the vintage.

Its color is a deep salmon pink and its fine bead exhales zesty orange peel and preserved berry aromas. It offers a lingering finish that is topped off by a hint of ripe red fruit and a firm structure. Alexandra Rosé can be paired with strong-flavored dishes, such as wild game with bilberries or cranberries.

Armand de Brignac NV R10500

A dominance of Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, which gives a fruitiness and roundness to the wine. The color is more like a peach than a rosé, with the nose revealing a whole bouquet of aromas including red apples and berries, peach and vanilla. This Champagne is fresh and full-bodied on the palate with Armand de Brignac's characteristic long, silky finish.

Möet et Chandon NV R1540

All the dedication to wine making the House of Möet et Chandon are renowned for all wrapped up in Pink...what could be nicer? Rosé Impérial is a champagne with finesse and elegance to be drunk with any special occasion or just with friends.

Veuve Clicquot NV R1780

As bold a wine as Mme Clicquout's spirit itself, earthy, nutty aromas of apple cider, lemon drop, brioche, clove and coffee bean. Fresh, toasty flavors of lemon curd and a dose of minerals for balance.

Dom Pérignon 1998 R9960

The 1996 vintage has all the inimitable traits of Dom Pérignon Rosé. It has the light artiness, vivacity and vibrancy of the Pinot Noir grape while still maintaining the balance between Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier that is unique to their consistent style.

Champagne

Blanc de Blanc

Ruinart NV R1960

An intense first nose with notes of fresh citrus fruit, mainly lime. A very fine and flowery second nose. Taste very supple, round and harmonious palate. Good vinosity. Notes of nectarine, apricot, cherry and plum.

Armand de Brignac NV R11500

Beautiful pale-gold Chardonnay Champagne produced in the traditional, old-world style, from grape to glass. The bouquet is light and clear, with youthful fruit notes and floral accents. It has a remarkably delicate and pure structure, with a bright, clear onset and long, lingering finish. Overtly dry and crisp, with fine accents and aromas of vanilla, citrus fruits and dried apricots. A genuine expression of the soul of the Chardonnay fruit and a true experience of luxury.

Champagne

Vintage

Laurent Perrier 1993 R1400

Laurent Perrier - Brut Millième 1999 R1650

Brut Millésimé is composed of roughly equal parts of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir - though the exact amounts vary depending on the characteristics of each vintage - and has considerable cellaring capacity. Brut Millésimé is made exclusively from wines of the very best *crus* or villages. Historically, most of these *crus* have formed the basis of Laurent-Perrier's Champagnes. The most prestigious among them are: Mesnil-sur-Oger, Oger, Avize, Cramant, Chouilly, Ambonnay, Bouzy, Tours-sur-Marne and Louvois. Aging in our cellars lasts for at least six years and very light dosage is used to allow the wine to reveal its true nature.

Laurent Perrier Grand Siecle La Cuvee 1990 R2800

Möet et Chandon 2000 R1600

Deep, rich Champagne, featuring toast, malt, apple and graphite aromas and flavors. This is full of mineral on the palate, with a lingering, savory finish. This Champagne is composed of 50% Chardonnay, 34% Pinot Noir and 16% Meunier sourced from a combination of the largest estate in Champagne and purchased fruit. In the glass this Champagne has a pretty green-gold color and a toasty white bread nose with a subtle touch of litchi fruit. On the palate it is flavoury and assertive.

Taittinger 2004 R1650

Taittinger only makes a vintage when the harvest is of exceptional quality. A pale and radiant yellow colour with delicate bubbles that form dense foam. The nose, yeasty bread aromas which gives way to a fine, sweet fruitiness of lemon, mandarin and a flowery touch of acasia honey emerge. At first sip, the impression on the palate is a fruity attack which is sublimely fresh and rich. The mid palate is well balanced, structured and smooth, releasing flavours of sugar red pink grapefruit. The exceptional intensity of the finish is long, generous, complex and silky.

Champagne

Prestige Cuvee

Laurent Perrier - Grand Siècle La Cuvée NV R1300

Grand Siècle is made with a Pinot Noir and Chardonnay blend, with the latter being slightly dominant. Twelve of the most prestigious villages supply these grapes; all of them classified at 100% Grands Crus such as Ambonnay, Verzenay, Mailly, Avize, Cramant, Chouilly and Le Mesnil-sur-Oger. Within the vineyards of these villages, only the very best plots are selected, as are the finest musts from the pressings. The blended wine is then aged during the second fermentation on the yeast for approximately five years

It has a bright color, with a brilliant yellow hue. Its subtle aromas of honey, hazelnuts, grilled almonds and brioche, make this the perfect companion for refined dishes.

Dom Pérignon Brut 2000 R4060

Initial notes of fresh almonds and grapefruit gradually lead into cashew nuts and spices complemented by lightly toasted brioche. On the palate the persistence is remarkable with just the slight undertone of citrus zest.

Veuve Clicquot - La Grande Dame 1998 R5280

The contrast of depth and brightness, or intensity and weightlessness creates a sense of harmonic resonance in this wine. All the aromatics are potent, from the scent of rising bread dough to the red skin of an apple, all the corresponding flavors rich yet refreshing. The firmness of the acidity seems to add briskness to the mousse, leaving a clean, chiseled impression of the chalk soils in which this grew.

Armand de Brignac - Brut Gold NV R9500

Marvelously complex and full-bodied, its bouquet is both fresh and lively, with light floral notes. On the palate, Armand de Brignac has a sumptuous, racy fruit character that is perfectly integrated with the wine's subtle brioche accents. The Champagne's texture is deliciously creamy, with great depth paired with a long, silky finish.

Demi Sec

Möet et Chandon - Nectar Impérial NV R1350

The Demi Sec of the Möet range, the assemblage is built around the structure of the Pinot Noir: supple and smooth. Nectar Impérial is both a refined and sophisticated wine whose richness turns into sensuality.

Chardonnay

UNWOODED

Constantia

Constantia Uitsig 2009 R225
Chardonnay showing lime and grapefruit characteristics on the nose which follows through to the palate.

Walker Bay

Bouchard Finlayson - Sans Barrique 2010 R270
Unoaked, fresh, refreshing lime and lemony palate with soft acid and fine fruit structure. Flinty and dry finish complemented by loads of strong mineral flavours.
These grapes originate from the tall mountains behind the village of Villiersdorp. Conditions through growing season were dry which presented a small harvest of concentrated fruit.

Stellenbosch

Rustenberg 2010 R430
An elegant unwooded Chardonnay with fresh lemon, orange peel and cereal aromas. Zesty acid and medium bodied with a clean long citrus aftertaste.

Franschhoek

Dieu Donné 2009 R125
Soft and rounded with lemony undertones from the fruit and a creaminess from the lees contact.

Wellington

Doolhof 2008 R130
Notes of pear and passion fruit on the nose, with lovely peach flavors on the palate. Well rounded with a limey sweet-fruit finish.

Robertson

De Westhof Bon Vallon 2009 R175
A well crafted wine from gravelly soils that is extremely rich with lime. Intense Granny Smith apples, peaches and citrus nose that follows through to the palate. Quite refreshing with hints of minerality with a lingering apple aftertaste.

Chardonnay

WOODED

Walker Bay

Bouchard Finlayson - Kaaimansgat 2009 R295

Packed with minerally tight fruit flavours of pear, peaches and litchis resting on over-laying hints of oak, vanilla and autolized yeasts. Strong nutty components will evolve over time to create complexity and enhanced flavours. Prepared in classic Burgundian fashion and then matured "sur lie" for eight months in traditional 228 litres barriques.

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Bouchard Finlayson - Missionvale 2009 R395

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Ataraxia 2009 R465

If any wine has a personality, this wine has its wine makers Kevin Grant's personality, a man who spent a decade at world famous Hamilton Russell before venturing on this very successful brand. Some accolades include Best new world white wine, a tri-nation champion and a 5* rating from the Platters Guide. Citrus palate, well rounded mouthfeel with a hint of wood to enhance the flavour.

Hamilton Russell 2009 R715

Long been considered a master white of South Africa. From the tiny district of walker bay, comes Hamilton Russell Vineyard, a district's first when Tim Hamilton-Russell decided tame the district's virgin soil to make wines. Today under the ownership of his son Anthony, the wines are being enjoyed and praised all over the world. A tight mineral wine with classic Hamilton Russell Vineyards length and complexity. A prominent core of intense pear fruit aromas and flavors is brought beautifully into focus by a tight line of natural acid and a dry minerality. An elegant, yet textured and intense wine with a strong personality of both place and vintage.

Elgin

Oak valley 2010 R325

Apart from making world class wines, oak valley looks after the environment; they are a Champion member of the Biodiversity and wine initiative. A brilliant pale golden colour. A forthcoming nose loaded with ripe peach, honey and almonds and the wood is adding complexity and body. Great finish.

Chardonnay

WOODED

Stellenbosch

Meerlust 2008 R445

Very youthful, vivid and with brilliant bright platinum colour and pronounced green hue. Complex nose with citrus fruit, green apple and cream flavours, the nose becomes creamy and nutty with delicious bouquet of marzipan, halva and oatmeal. On the palate it's full bodied and generous, but still balanced by crispy acidity. The wine has a long, very pleasant lingering finish indicating the richness and persistence of the vintage.

Vergelegen 2009 R260

Pale green-gold colour with intensity-focused flavours showing notes of citrus, biscuits, toast and ripe fruits. The taste is long and elegant with excellent fruit and wood integration.

Uva Mira 2009 R450

ABC(anything but chardonnay) is a thing of the past. This wine displays careful handling of oak expect ebullient aromas of lime and peach, with beautiful mineral notes and excellent oak integration. Dense flavour's of citrus with a creamy complexity with a rich intense finish that lingers forever.

Paarl

Glen Carlou 2009 R240

Every father is a hero to his son, a phrase that comes into my mind every time I think of this stunning wine. Glen Carlou was first started by David Finlayson before his son joined him on one of South Africa's most quality consistent wine estate and impress the worlds most influential palates, including mine today, the vineyard estate is owned by the equally famous Hess family of the America's most loved Hess Collection vineyards. Excellently wooded, with outstanding flavours of vanilla, butterscotch and marmalade. A beautiful finish that will create a wonderful marriage with our oven roasted line fish.

Backsberg 2009 R170

Apricots, almonds and cream combine in a profusion of intense aromas, these characters, balanced by fresh acidity, complete a palate that is long and powerful.

Franschhoek

Glenwood 2010 R325

A beautiful and harmonious balance of wood and fruit integration.
A full, complex and creamy mouth feel. Aromas of smokey peach together with citrus notes that lingers and invites for another sip.

Sauvignon Blanc

Constantia

Steenberg 2010 R240

From the Old World comes this typical grassiness and gooseberry overtones and from the New World a gentle scent of tropical fruit. This Sauvignon Blanc reflects the fresh, flinty and full bodied characteristics of grass, peppers and fruit.

Elgin

Elgin Vintners 2009 R145

This is vibrant and fresh, displaying layers of tropical fruit, green peppers and asparagus. Nuances of gooseberry and green fig follow through onto the palate and compliment the underlying grassy backbone which lingers in the mouth.

Iona 2010 R265

Strong mineral aromas with undertones of gooseberry, mango, quince and lime zest. A spicy entry with a rich fruit driven mid-palate and a long, fresh grapefruit finish.

Walker Bay

Bouchard Finlayson 2010 R60 R235

This wine has a strong vibrant aroma, tropical fruits of pineapple, litchi and granadilla. This is followed by a firm crisp palate signaling a determined structure with paralleled fruit. Also some guava and pear. Crisp and herbaceous finish with lingering fruit.

Bouchard Finlayson - Reserve 2010 R55 R295

This wine is dry, but notably fruity with cantaloupe, gooseberry and white pepper, garnished with complex secondary tropical notes, leading to a crisp, savoury and lasting sumptuous finish! This wine has been made with the express purpose of ageing and it is anticipated that it will offer great reward for at least five years.

Stellenbosch

Jordan - Barrel Fermented 2008 R230

Gary and Kathy Jordan are a very hands on couple with many talents, amongst other things lecturing about wine and running a stunning High Timber restaurant on the banks of river Thames in London. There's always something exciting about wooden Sauvignon Blanc, this is no different. Creamy, complex and fuller with toasted fruit while having that typical freshness associated with Sauvignon Blanc.

Saxenburg 2010 R210

The Bühler family have built one of the most exciting estates I have ever seen. Winemaker Nico van der Merwe has been there for twenty years. A man who knows everything about the soil, he probably speaks to it. He created a stunning Sauvignon Blanc. Pale straw with an amazing complex nose of tropical yellow fruits, and soft green vegetal nose. The palate is sensational with guava and asparagus taking on extra length of pure satisfaction. One of the most memorable Sauvignon Blanc's I have ever tried.

Sauvignon Blanc

Paarl/Wellington

Anura 2011 R120

French style Sauvignon Blanc with mineral, grassy, green fig tones combined with pineapple, lemon, granadilla and grapefruit flavours. This wine has a well- balanced acidity which is supported by crisp, refreshing palate.

Signatures of Doolhof 2009 R130

A lovely Sauvignon bursting with ripe tropical flavors, and an enticing, complex bouquet of capsicum and green fig. Gooseberry and passion fruit flavors introduce a perfectly tapered tail.

Robertson

Springfield - Life from a Stone 2010 R215

This single vineyard originates from the rockiest soil on the estate, with resultant struggling vines and huge concentration. Brilliant greenish in appearance, this is a dramatic wine full of red peppers and passion fruit. It will mature to perfection into flavours and flint.

New Zealand-Marlborough

Nautilus 2007 R425

You need not travel the world to know what is trendy on the other side of the ocean. New Zealand is perhaps one of the undisputable areas of Sauvignon Blancs. Winemaker Clive Jones is an academic who studied well about wine science in South Islands Marlborough. Pale straw with green tinges of colour a lifted aroma of gooseberry, black-current bud and passion fruit skin. The palate introduces tropical fruit flavours with a hint of red capsicum. The wine has a rich mid palate with good texture and a typical zingy finish.

Semillon

Durbanville

Nitida 2010 R230

Talk of husband and wife Winemakers Bernhard Veller and his wife Peta are darlings of Durbanville. A family oriented estate is a popular spot for a very young crowd. Their Semillon is one of the most consistent in terms of fruit and structure , freshly cut grass with pineapples and litchi flavors soften on the palate by lovely minerality .

Franschhoek

Stony Brook 2008 R300

This wine was fermented and matured in new French oak. It has a creamy texture with hints of honey and citrus.

Chenin Blanc

Napier

Jean Daneel - Signature 2009 R295

From the hidden valleys of Napier comes a dedicated yet modest Jean Daneel. This is one man who once told me that to make a good Chenin you must be able to dance to the tune of ripening vines. No-wonder this wine on previous vintage, was the undisputedly awarded the John Platter Wine of the Year. The style is consistent with the fruit being the center focus then the wood. The nose is smokey, with sherbet and mandarin showing beautifully. The palate is full bodied with a elegant smooth finish.

Stellenbosch

Forrester Meinert Chenin - FMC 2009 R825

A world class Chenin blanc with hints of botrytis.. Ken Forrester has become the principle authority in the Chenin world. One of the most harmonious wines I have ever tasted, a perfectly made wine to please even the most critical palate. Whiffs of ginger, honeycomb and complex layers of nuts.

Waterford's Pecan Stream 2011 R120

Bright yellow/green color. Ripe winter melon and pear aromas dominate. Full, rich palate, lifted by great acidity, very refreshing, excellent mouth-feel.

Teddy Hall Reserve 2009 R285

A rich golden color with the faintest of green tinges, the nose offers abundant nougat, pineapple and summer fruit aromas. On the palate there's a distinct dryness with the vanillins of the oak counterbalancing the tropical fruit and baked apple flavors. Underlining the wine's pedigree is an intense finish which lingers long after the mouthful has been swallowed.

Villiera 2010 R125

The wine has intense fruit with a hint of wood spice on the nose, including pineapple and citrus.

Franschhoek

Môreson 2009 R205

This wine is made in the rich and ripe style and is a celebration of the Franschhoek terrior. The nose shows aromas of pear drops, white peach and apple with typical Franschhoek chalkiness. The palate is fresh and zesty leaving behind flavours of lime and quince.

Cederberg

Cederberg 2010 R185

An authentic cape Chenin Blanc that is age worthy. Melon, grapefruit and pineapple nose with a crispy palate, medium bodied due to the five months of lees contact.

Riesling

Constantia

Buitenverwachting 2008 R40 R150
This wine is attractively aromatic with green apple and peach; balanced but a bit rustic in youth with a vibrant acidity.

Elgin

Paul Cluver Close Encounter 2010 R285
This wine is Riesling based, similar to a German Auslese. A great sugar and acid balance, aromatic, ginger and citrus nose. For the semi sweet white lovers, this is for you.

Stellenbosch

Thelema 2008 R160
Gylles Webb diverted from numbers to winemaking, a former chartered accountant turned to wine making and created one of the most loved brands in South Africa. Thelema is situated on the highest slopes of Stellenbosch, resulting in slow ripening delicate fruit. This Riesling has flavours of blossom and lime fruit it has a lovely, crisp acidity and sugar levels, making a wine that will develop over the next 10 to 15 years.

Viognier

Stellenbosch

Pax Verbatim - Rockwater Fountain 2010 R210
Winemaker Richard Hilton is one man who loves being higher than the rest, recently he successfully climbed the highest peak in Africa, Kilimanjaro, raising funds for his wine educational initiative called Pebble. This Viognier's standard is as high as the peak that he has just conquered. Bustling with fresh peach fruit and lovely floralness while minerality gives it that extra edge.

The Foundry 2008 R230
After more than a decade at Meerlust, Chris Williams, has his very own label. Chris focuses exclusively on Rhone varietals and this is evident in the quality and detail present in the wines. A classic example of what Viognier has to offer. Quite aromatic with complex aromas due to the French oak influence.

Topaz 2009 R285
The leading garage winemaker, Clive Torr, has a great attention to detail. Acumen, hard work and passion came together to showcase what Elgin can deliver from this Rhone varietal. Elegant with intense peach and apricot aromas. A persistent follow through to the palate where there is a hint of sweetness. Great with spicy dishes.

Other White Wine Varietals

France/Alsace

Hugel Pinot Gris 2003 R550
Straw gold colour, with quite a few flashes of green, it shows good depth and intensity. The bouquet is soft, supple and gently fruit driven fused with some pronounced tertiary aromas. A classic dry Pinot Gris, it opens on the palate with a fine ripe acidity that is essential to balance the rich, ripe mouth filling structure and so ensure perfect harmony.

Bovlei Beaukett Wellington N/V R90
Veteran wine maker Jacques Theron is a man who loves getting his hands dirty in order to produce clean and fresh results. He is part of dedicated strong team from the beautiful area of Wellington. This wine is off dry with a satisfying juicy fruit and an extra dash of sweetness. Very gentle light and a very popular summer wine to be enjoyed slightly spicy cuisine.

Blended White Wines

Walker Bay

Bouchard Finlayson - Blanc de Mer 2010 R50 R195

Mediterranean Style

It has a deep colour with a very full palate feel. Very rich with tastes of peaches, quinces and pear which all blend to provide a strong and lengthy finish.

Numerous tastings have offered it every opportunity not to be humble. Perhaps the most noteworthy accolade was Stephen Spurrier's top rating in Decanter Magazine (May 2009) where he nominated the Blanc de Mer as the new world's best white! This vintage enjoyed dry conditions with low cropping levels being offered.

Constantia

Buitenverwachting - Buiten Blanc 2010 R130

Cape Blend

If you thinking about a wine maker that knows how to make wine for the whole country to love and trust, you would be thinking Hermann Kirschbaum. Buitenverwachting is one of the oldest estates in South Africa and this wine is one known by most South Africans, the Sauvignon Chenin blend with delicate green pepper, asparagus and pear are the consistent characteristics which this wine has become famous for.

Constantia Uitsig 2009 R350

Bordeaux Style

Cellar Master John Loubser is one of the finest specialists in Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. This is a very sophisticated blend with Semillon spending seven months in barrel giving it a fuller depth in aroma and flavour while Sauvignon Blanc gives it delicate fresh structure.

Steenberg - Magna Carta 2009 R1135

Bordeaux Style

An iconic wine, from an iconic estate by and iconic wine makers John Loubser. This estate was the very first land governor Simon van der Stel ever granted to a female owner, Catherina Ras in 1652. This Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon blend showcases the farms identity with the wine maker perfectly blending hand in hand. Harmoniously with canned peas, green pepper and lively tropical fruit while the palate has that pear and peach flavours.

Stellenbosch

Bizoe - Henrietta 2009 R380

Bordeaux Style

A wow factor when I first tasted this wine with an unknown winemaker Rikus Neethling I told him this was one 'heaven' of a wine. No one knew of this wine, or the wine maker before. Today it needs no praise and Rikus needs no introduction. The wine is beautifully decorated with global awards. This gently made blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon, with a sensational nose, green and yellow fruits of Sauvignon Blanc integrated well with creamy and waxy, delicious structure of Semillon while the wood gives it an extra-ordinary touch of spice and vanilla. Rikus with his Bizoe have arrived. Get used to them.

Dornier Donatus - White 2009 R315

Cape Blend

This wine combines the richness and fullness of Semillon with the freshness and complexity of Chenin Blanc. Notes of white pear and cumquat, complemented by nuances of citrus and honey add to the complexity, ending with an elegant and silky finish.

Rosé

Stellenbosch

Grangehurst - Cape Rosé Blend 2009 R137

A dry rosé blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinotage, Merlot, Chenin Blanc and Shiraz. Bright, dark pink colour, slightly sweet red berry nose with some complexity from the partial barrel maturation. Refreshing, dry, easy drinking wine with some tannin to reflect a slight red wine character.

Paarl

Nederburg - Foundation 2010 R90

South Africa's most romantic wine is also amongst the most versatile. An easy-drinking, fruity quaffing wine made from a blend of Pinotage, Cinsaut and Shiraz, its bouquet says strawberry.

Stellenbosch

Waterford - Rose-Mary 2010 R165

Pale coral pink complexion, bright and clear. Spicy notes complimented by crispy, fresh watermelon notes. Very low alcohol and taut acidity makes this a perfect lunchtime wine.

Somerset west

Morgenster Caruso 2010 R195

Named after Enrico Caruso, the famous Italian tenor whose powerful voice was celebrated for its eloquence and richness. In this case Sangiovese is the grape behind the magic. A very sexy and refreshing strawberry coloured wine. Pomegranate and cinnamon rocks the palate and it is a food wine too. Enjoy!



Private Cellar Selection Grand Crus Bordeaux

The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa are very proud to present a selection of the finest quality "Premier Grand Crus Classes" or "First Great Growths" from Bordeaux in France. These wines originate from the Tollman's family private wine collection in London and have been expertly cellared to retain and enhance all the great characteristics these wines are known for.

Château Margaux

Margaux

Château Margaux has a reputation dating back to the 15th Century. The vineyard of Château Margaux covers approximately 100 hectares and produce grape varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc.

1975	R 7, 500.00
1983	R68, 000.00
1985	R 35, 000.00
1986	R 37, 000.00
1989	R32, 000.00
1990	R42, 000.00

Château Lafite-Rothschild

Pauillac

Château Lafite-Rothschild are the highest vineyards in the Pauillac region covering an area of just under 90 hectares. Owned by the Rothschild family since 1868, these wines develop great elegance with age.

1966	R 5, 800.00
1971	R 5, 000.00
1975	R10, 000.00
1982	R52, 000.00
1985	R 8, 200.00
1986	R60, 000.00

Château Cheval Blanc

St Emilion

Château Cheval Blanc began winning wine awards as early as 1862 and these achievements are reflected on their labelling today. This Château occupies a unique position in St Emilion producing wines of the finest quality.

1979	R10, 500.00
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Château Brane-Cantonac

Margaux

Château Brane-Cantonac in the Margaux appellation covers an area of 90 hectares in several different plots. The vines are harvested by hand; the fruit is cold soaked and fermented in a variety of vessels. The wine has a very deep colour and a rich nose.

1989	R8, 200.00
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Cabernet Sauvignon

Constantia

Buitenverwachting 2006 R265
This wine offers strong berry flavours reminiscent of blackcurrant and ripe cherries with elegant mineral and cigar-box characters.

Stellenbosch

Alto 2007 R369
Spicy tobacco leaf with blackcurrants, beautifully integrated tannins with a coffee finish. A full bodied wine with lots of structure to offer. A soft, fruit driven wine with a hint of cassis, vanilla and a touch of chocolate. Firm approachable tannins with a fine finish.

Dornier 2006 R215
Displaying the typical opulent fruit common to this noble variety, this wine has been carefully aged as to maintain and enhance its natural characteristics. Strong aromas of fresh cassis and red berry fruits dominate the nose accompanied by nuances of mocha and tobacco notes.

Rust en Vrede Estate 2008 R450
Garnet red with a tawny rim. An array of berry flavours, ripe fruit and earth. Elegant, well balanced with a soft tannin structure and long concentrated finish.

Thelema 2007 R500
Complex and stylish, with bags of ripe blackcurrent and coffee flavours. This wine is bone dry, yet exhibits a lovely sweet fruit character on the palate. The finish is long and firm.

Le Riche Reserve 2008 R645
A founder of the Cape Winemakers Guild, Etteine le Riche the cellar master and owner believes in traditional winemaking. Multi layered nose showing ripe cherry, spice and tobacco aromas. Full bodied yet gentle, elegant and juicy tannins with an enchanting finish.

Paarl

Anura Reserve 2006 R230
This is no small wine, heavily oaked for 23 months has resulted in a wine with full, full structure. Incredibly complex flavours of cassis, spice and minty flavours. A delicious wine with bolder, yet approachable tannins. If you were wondering about the name "Anura" as much as we were, owners Tymen and Jenny Bouma are big fans of amphibians, and their label is a tribute to these tailless creatures and their Simonsberg estate is home to no less than 4800 of them.

Robertson

Graham Beck 2007 R257
Deep, ruby red in colour with chocolate and ripe berry fruit and hints of mint and cigar box notes on the nose. Full bodied with juicy mulberry and cherry flavours and spice on the palate. Soft but firm tannins with a balanced mouth feel and a long finish.

Tulbagh

Rijk's 2005 R340
Intense dark red colour. Spicy aromas hits the nose supported by black berry and dark chocolate bouquets. Elegant! Fine tannin structure underlined with gentle oak to ensure a velvety finish.

Merlot

Constantia

Steenberg 2008 R325

This deep purple Merlot has incredible fruit concentration. It is multi-faceted, with violets, incense, eucalyptus and soft spearmint on the nose; black and red berry intensity on the palate, together with rich but subtle oak flavors and ripe tannins which provide this wine with a long, full finish.

Stellenbosch

Dombeya 2007 R215

Although still young with a tight tannins structure, the wine opens up with lovely red berry and ripe plum and black cherry flavours. The palate is smooth with fine tannins and lingering fruity concentrated aftertaste.

Meerlust 2007 R550

True varietals expression: Deep, youthful purple colour with a ruby rim. The nose shows juicy plum and mulberry fruit, lifted by an underlying spiciness. The palate offers generous, ripe, pure Merlot fruit with refreshing acidity, structured yet silky tannins and pronounced length and minerality.

Radford Dale 2008 R350

In a land where this varietal often plays second or third fiddle, they have unashamedly made this pure Merlot in intense, deep and yet spontaneous style. Ripe, juicy blueberry flavours firmly but ripely connected in a web of subtle tannins.

Rust en Vrede 2009 R415

Rich chocolate and mocha aromas combine well with darker berries and subtle hints of spice. Soft juicy tannins, backed up with hints of vanilla and blueberries.

Darling

Groote Post 2010 R220

Smokey gamey nose with a touch of farmyard and forest fruits. Sweet cherry on the mid palate with soft juicy tannins. Very easy drinking Merlot.

Paarl

Veenwouden 2007 R570

This is the legacy, left behind by one of South Africa's most polished Opera singers, the late Dion van der Walt. I have tasted some of the best Merlots aboard and never have I tasted such a remarkable wine, made outside its Bordeaux home. This I call a show stopper. Concentrated flavours of black and red cherries, with cinnamon and mint showing on the back palate, a very fine wine that will remain in your mind forever.

Elgin

Shannon Vineyards Mount Bullet 2007 R715

James Downes has done it again! This time redefining Merlot in the southern Hemisphere. Full bodied multi-layered wine displaying notes of prunes, dark chocolate, berries and spice. Each sip demands careful attention and please allow me to introduce you to a world of fine wines.

Pinot Noir

Walker Bay

Bouchard Finlayson - Galpin Peak 2008 R650

This bottling is rich with luscious soft tannins and dark-coloured forest fruits, deftly balanced on a cord of lingering plum and raspberry delights. Expected to age with appealing composure. □□ Bouchard Finlayson was awarded the Trophy for the Wine of the Year for our Galpin Peak Pinot Noir, scoring 97.5% in the newly launched web based South African Supérieur Wine Rating Index (SASWRI) - a world first.

Bouchard Finlayson - Tête de Cuvée 2007 R1455

Tête de Cuvée reflects the winemaker's opportunity to create a blend from a handful of chosen, best barrels in the cellar from a particular vintage. Not every vintage presents suitable quality for this selection. It is a black fruit driven Pinot noir boasting flavours of mulberries, plums and violets and lingers with a nutty fullness and good tannins.

Bouchard Finlayson - CWG 2007 R2400

CWG stands for Cape Winemakers Guild which holds an annual Wine Auction where Wines from their 35+ members being auctioned. This is considered as the South African Showcase of high end quality wines.

This wine has been a further barrel selection of the Tete de Cuvee, produced in one of the best vintages in this century.

Hamilton Russell 2007 R680

Winemaker Hannes Storm has won my stamp of approval with this daringly amazing wine from this stunning Walker Bay Estate of wine, olive oil and fynbos honey, regulars in my kitchen. Very Burgundian, this is a seriously crafted wine with lots of red berries, earthy minerality and mushrooms. The palate is packed with multi-layered flavours ranging from cranberries, strawberries and some chocolate flavours. The consistency of the Pinot makes it one of the best Pinot Noirs in the New World.

Upper Hemel en Aarde Valley

Newton Johnson 2009 R500

A classic new world red Burgundy packed with flavours of Black cherry, spice, and mushroom. Well polished tannins and the mineral earthy character marry well with the long delicious finish. This is a food wine due to its versatility to pair with a variety of dishes.

Bamboes Bay

Fryers Cove 2010 R300

Bright light red with an orange brown tinge in colour. Flavours of ripe plums, cherries, herbs and vanilla spice with earthy and organic undertones on the nose. This wine has a perfect balance between fruit and tannin with nice minerality on the after-taste.

Elgin

Catherine Marshall Eleven Barrel Reserve 2009 R430

It takes a careful selection of clones, soil and the best grapes followed by right yeast strains to craft a wine of this Calibre. Only the best eleven barrels are selected to come up with the diversity that will be in your glass. A lovely, very approachable wine with abundance of flavours that includes fresh cherry, cranberry, mulberries and spice.

Paarl

Glen Carlou 2009 R365

This wine has clear ruby red color with a hint of plum purple. Cured cherries and blackcurrant aromas with cinnamon spice. Medium bodied with ripe strawberry flavours. The palate is rich and juicy, with fruit and very fine oak. Tannins are in perfect harmony. Easy drinking with a good balance between wood and fruit.

Shiraz

Elgin

Sanctum 2005 R315
Mike Dobrovic to me is not a wine maker he is a brand. It takes years of hard work, consistency and respect to create a brand. A man of the soil, after years behind the scenes at Mulderbosch, Mike made a solo statement. After tasting this Shiraz from Elgin, my rather critical perspective changed, I was overwhelmed and amused. This is a global star in the making. A world class wine in every sense. Herbs, complex body, length, and consistency this wine has it all. Also presented 92 points by US Wine Spectator...you be the judge.

Stellenbosch

Thelema 2007 R300
This estate is situated on the prime high spot in Stellenbosch. Thomas has joined his father Gyles and the team with as much enthusiasm and zeal as his father could have ever hoped for. A team also committed the environment with all the winery waste being composted and mulched and put back into the estate. Rich and robust. This exuberant wine shows ripe black fruit and spice, with lovely toasty finish. Full bodied.

Hartenberg - The Stork 2006 R915
Full-bodied wine with black fruits, cherries and hints of violets. Quality oak is very much in the background and the wine has a long, lingering aftertaste. Can be drunk young but has cellaring potential.

The Foundry 2006 R385
Famously known for his outstanding work at Meerlust, Chris Williams has now got a "baby" of his own, and the philosophy behind Foundry wines may sound simple, yet to get the outcome that they are looking for it takes a large amount of care and dedication. "Great wines must never taste too far from their home." A philosophy is apparent in this Syrah, which is very terroir specific wine. Delicately spicy, gamey and with lively fruit.

Waterford - Kevin Arnold 2008 R400
Kevin is one man, which is hard not to adore. A very passionate, humble and modest man, a man that holds many titles with high regards. To us a great winemaker and to his daughter and wife a great dad and family man. A fact shown in every bottle he makes he dedicates to his family. This is one of the finest Shiraz we've tasted, as delightful as the man that made it. This wine will pamper your palate with juicy ripe fruit, spice, and coffee flavours it will leave you wanting just a little bit more.

Zorgvliet 2004 R295
The nose shows ripe mulberry, violet and floral notes that are integrated with spice and white pepper, it follows through on the palate with refreshing acidity and mocha chocolate on the finish. This wine comes from coffee soil on the valley floor of the Banhoek Valley and is unique to its soil type and origin.

Franschhoek

Boekenhoutskloof Porcupine Ridge 2010 R150
Aromatic fynbos, spice with ripe berries fleshiness show from the deep ruby color. Although the palate is generous, an unmistakable elegance adds linearity to this wine. The tannins are integrated and accessible.

Swartland

Mullineux Syrah 2009 R500
True varietal expression: lovely perfumy, prunes, black pepper and rosemary notes. Full bodied and spicy with silky smooth tannins and an amazing everlasting finish.

Pinotage

Stellenbosch

Backsberg 2008 R150
Ripe mulberry and sweet strawberry with a touch of herbs. A juicy mouthfeel with supple, "sweet" tannins. Very easy drinking with a light finish.

Simonsig 2008 R190
Deep and dark bramble berry fruit with hints of wet earth and forest floor reveals the true character of Pinotage. Silky, polished tannins lend support to the full ripe, succulent berry and sour cherry fruit. Generous and complex with a gentle dry finish to balance the intrinsic sweet fruit, of this unoaked Pinotage from a superb red wine vintage.

De Waal - Top of the Hill 2004/2005 R600
De Waal brothers continue with a family tradition dating back to 1682, this wine comes from a combination of young and very old wines with two years in French oak - a Cape Legend. Crafted from more than half a century old vineyard hence the intense flavours of prunes, banana, cigar box and the spiciness that lingers. One of the Cape's top Pinotage.

Kanonkop 2009 R690
The master pinotage...the uber star. South Africa's most talked about wine from a beautiful estate situated on the R44. This is what pinotage should be about. All the famous varietal characteristics are here. Majestic flavours of raspberries, black cherries and hints of dried banana.

Wellington

Doolhof 2008 R190
Plumy ruby colour with a pinky-purple rim. Impressive plum and blackberry fruits on the nose and palate with touches of earthy tones. Subtle whiffs of mocha and char from the oak are followed by a tell tale hint of vanilla.

Franschhoek

Môreson 2009 R370
Ripe warm summer plums and cherry, hints of decadent dark chocolate and earthy coffee. The palate shows an impressive array of complex sweet flavours-plum, black cherry and a touch of mocha, followed by firm ripe tannins that give a well-balanced persistent aftertaste.

Hamel-en-Aarde Valley

Southern Right Pinotage 2009 R385
Grown in perfect conditions: cool climate and low vigour, clay-rich, shale driven soils. A complex cherry, berry with hints of spice. Great tannin structure, average alcohol(13,5) with a great lingering farewell. In my opinion a "must try" wine that has been exceptionally well made as South Africa's; home grown variety.

Blended Red Wines

Elgin

Arumdale - St. Andrew's 2006 R395

This wine shows elegantly gentle nose of a patiently ripened harvest. There is a notable freshness and "up-front", ripe sense of fruit, which rounds off beautifully. This blend is finely designed and beautifully structured; it's smooth whilst showing elegantly rich character. An entertaining complexity, with a clean and mouth-watering finish.

Elgin Vintners - Agama 2007 R275

Bordeaux Style

Dense, cherry red in colour, this wine conjures up aromas of caramel and cinnamon layered with plums, blackberries and cassis. This multi-faceted combination of fruit flows through onto the palate where subtle hints of spicy pepper and liquorice integrate with the subtle tannins - an outstanding wine!

Walker Bay

Bouchard Finlayson - Hannibal 2008 R510

Mediterranean Style

A storytale in a bottle? This is it. Peter Finlayson introduces to us a remarkable story of Hannibal; the Conqueror who successfully crossed the French Alps, from Italy. This, rather unusual, yet exciting bovine is South Africa's very first Sangiovese-led blend with Pinot Noir, Barbera, Nebiolo and Shiraz. A well integrated blend of Italian and French grape varieties are true testimony to that story. Medium bodied wine with intensified fruit of stewed prunes, Christmas cake and black cherries. This is one wine that will make you want to relive and era you never lived.

Stellenbosch

De Toren - Fusion V 2006 R780

Bordeaux Style

Mineral tones greet you at first, followed by sweet ripe blackcurrant, cinnamon, caramel and liquorish. The fusion of acidity, ripe tannin structure and complexity derived from the five varieties, combined to bring out the best in this stunning vintage.

Meerlust

Bordeaux Style

One of South Africa's very finest Boudreaux style blend. A dream inspired by a trip to Boudreaux by the late Nico Myburgh. I've been privileged enough to have tasted every vintage ever produced since the maiden vintage 1980, of which all of them were truly amazingly beautiful on their own right.

Rubicon 1992 R1200

Rubicon 1993 R1250

Rubicon 1994 R1200

Rubicon 2006 R700

Blended Red Wines

Stellenbosch

Grangehurst - Nikela 2001 R440

Cape Blend

My vineyard tours in Stellenbosch are never complete without a drive to this estate filled with a charming family. Wine maker Jeremy Walker started his project at a converted squash court just under 2 decades ago. Today, a well respected member of the elite Cape Wine Makers Guild. This wine is a tribute to his late parents who were so inspirational in his career and life. A very multi layers blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinotage with a lasting finish. Jeremy is such a perfectionist, allowing this wine to be released only 4-5 years after harvest, hence I always refer to him as Dr. Walker PhD.

Rust en Vrede Estate 2007 R800

Cape Blend

After an illustrious and successful career for the Springboks, Janie Engelbrecht ventures on a new project, to make wines that will change the world's perspective about South Africa. This wine was born. Nelson Mandela is known to have personally selected this wine for the world famous Nobel Peace dinner in 1993. A vibrant blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Shiraz. Outstanding aromas of fennel, rosemary with hints of espresso and blackberries.

Vergelegen - "V" 2005 R1870

Bordeaux Style

This estate is as old as the cape. Established in 1700's by the Governor W A van der Stel this is one of the best South African wines to ever emerge from the past decade. A wine known only as the letter "v" The nose is complex, showing blackcurrant, cedar wood, lead pencil and cigar box aromas. These develop in the glass and are joined by raspberry, black cherry, spice and a hint of gaminess. On the palate the wine is concentrated but elegant, with fine-grained tannins that soften even further in the glass, resulting in a luxurious wine with a long aftertaste.

Vergelegen - Vergelegen 2003 R815

Bordeaux Style

The wine shows rich ruby colour with almost an opaque centre. Cassis and pepper abound on the nose showing its class with immaculate fruit texture and suave tannins.

Warwick - Trilogy 2008 R610

Bordeaux Style

Norma Ratcliffe needs no introduction in the wine field. She is a non-nonsense woman known for making amazing wines. This is her tribute to her late husband Stan. Trilogy is the benchmark wine of Warwick. A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, each variety brings its unique characteristics, but once interrogated, it is out of this world. A wine with a full body, beautifully nose, long attractive legs and an outstanding performance on the palate. A definite sweetheart.

Waterford - The Jem 2005 R1750

Cape Blend

The Jem is named after proprietor Jeremy Ord by a much loved Kevin Arnold at the stunning estate in Blaauwklippen road. This is a very big blend, a blend that took over eight years of experimentation before being released. Bold lead pencil and cassis notes backed by cedar and spice aromas, fine grained, well integrated tannins, soft and elegant. A long, refreshing and elegant finish which is classically dry. A great vintage.

Blended Red Wines

Paarl

Avondale - Jonty's Ducks 2007 R225

Cape Style

Lots of red cherry fruit, with liquorice, Bovril, dark chocolate and sweet ground coffee. The fruits flavours explode on the palate in a soft and elegant taste. The wine is medium full-bodied and lingers on well during the aftertaste.

Vilafonté - Series C 2007 R915

Bordeaux Style

A fruitfully joint venture between Californian Zelma Long and Mike Ratcliffe of Warwick saw the birth of this fast becoming famous wine. The only wine I know from this country to be served at the US White House. Cabernet dominant (Sauvignon and Franc), with Merlot, tight structure with sweet and sensuous black fruits and flavours of chocolate, firm tannins and a long finish.

Vilafonté - Series M 2006 R740

Bordeaux Style

This luscious wine has open and seductive aromatics which are redolent of red plums and black raspberries, with a distinctive spicy note and floral undertones. Oak characters are subtle and primarily expressed with vanilla notes. The palate is soft, with velvet tannins up front, lovely and bright fruit flavours.

France/Rousillon

Domaine Grier - Crusade 2006 R395

Rhone Blend

The wine is powerful with huge structure and great length. Dark berry fruit dominates but there is abundant spice and a hint of liquorice. The oak plays a supporting role and contributed to achieving harmony in the blend. 50% Grenache, 40% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre.

Domaine Grier - Galamus 2006 R235

Rhone Blend

The wine shows an exciting mix of berries and spice with underlying chocolate, supported by integrated oak. The fruit translates to the palate and combines with a fine tannin structure to ensure good keeping potential. 40% Grenache 30% Syrah and 30% Carignan

Other Red Varietals

Durbanville

Havana Hills - Sangiovese 2006 R155

This is one of my favorite estates, even after a horrifying brush with a very life like plastic Cobra snake. Young Piet Kleynhans has now teamed up with veteran Mike Dobrovic. Sangiovese is one of Italy's finest. This is a very cool wine, exciting earthy and over ripe fruit with light body and freshness makes it a cool wine to enjoy slightly chilled. One of my favorite discoveries.

Stellenbosch

Bellevue - Morkel Malbec 2008 R225

Intense ruby colour. An upfront, intense nose of vanilla brambles, fynbos and eucalyptus flavours. Loads of concentrated ripe berry fruit on the palate. A well balanced wine with a good structure and a long clean finish.

Bellevue - Petit Verdot 2005 R360

Opaque purple-black color. Chocolate, plums, lead pencil and cedarwood on the nose. Toasted nuts and dark blackcurrant fruit on the palate. A complex, concentrated wine with a lingering aftertaste.

Rainbows End - Cabernet Franc 2009 R315

Intense deep red, color. Lovely earthy and tea leaf flavors. Typical vegetative and herbaceous aromas with mineralic and slight floral aftertone (violets and fynbos). Intense rich fruit and juicy palate, with layers of dark chocolate and a hint of coffee. All in harmony with soft, fine tannins.

Paarl

Anura – Signature Grenache 2007 R330

An enticing combination of fruits and fresh herbal tones on the nose. The palate all begins with a gracious swish of cherries, blue berries, ripe fruit flavours spread across the palate followed by a smooth English toffee and mint finish.

Swartland

Annex Kloof - Malbec 2008 R225

Hugely popular in Argentina's Mendoza region, locally it is mostly produced as a blending component, rather than a single variety. Up front aromas of Turkish delight with eucalyptus and Fynbos hints. A perfect wine for our local game.

France/Rousillon

Domaine Grier Grenache 2006 R235

The wine shows classic red berry fruit and cherries with a hint of spice and underlying vanilla chocolate. The rich soft mouth feel is typical of Grenache but it is well structured ensuring maturation potential.

Dessert Wines

Noble Late Harvest

Gls Btl

Stellenbosch

Rudera Chenin Blanc 2007 R65 R365

Distinct yellow hue; rich bouquet. Waxy, honeyed with flinty tangerine. Rich mouth-feel and layers of tropical flavors, apricot, and some marmalade. The delicate yet firm smokey, oaky flavors expanding in the mouth. Fairly sweet and full; lovely texture and good length and balance.

Waterford - Heatherleigh NV R50 R265

Opulent botrytis dessert, wafts apricots, almonds and a complex luxurious sweet sugar with cleansing acidity.

Natural Sweet

Constantia

Klein Constantia - Vin de Constance 2005 R120 R910

Have you ever tasted a wine so amazing you run out of words to describe it? Jane Austen simply described it as a remedy to those with a broken heart. I call it pure luxury at its best, an experience at its finest. Constantia needed no GPS in the 18th century to tell the world where they were, all they did was make a marvelous wine and royalties sent ships to the Cape of Good Hope. Muscat de Frontignac grapes, their philosophy, great wines are made from great vines, not in the cellar. Ripe apricot, dried orange zest and candied fruit are some of the many characteristics you can expect.

Join the extraordinary league and say, "Yes, I have experienced it..."

Straw wine

Voor Paardeberg

Vondeling Sweet Carolyn 2006 R60 R435

This is definitely a sweet side of the wine story. One of those wines I know that are made in the vineyard. Muscat de Frontignan led blend with a dash old vine Chenin Blanc. Intense stone fruit, matured honey and ginger aromas. A great follow through to the tangy palate where the acid, sugar and alcohol are in great harmony.

Fortified Wines

Sherry

	<i>Gls</i>
Monis Medium Cream	R15
Monis Pale Dry	R15
Monis Full Cream	R15

Port

		<i>Gls</i>
Imported		
	Douro	
Cockburns White		R35
Local		
	Calitzdorp	
Axe Hill Cape Vintage	2006	R40
Axe Hill Dry White	NV	R36
Boplaas Cape Tawny	NV	R22
Boplaas Cape Vintage Reserve	2006	R42
De Kraans CVP	2007	R22
Peter Baylys Cape Vintage	2006	R36
Peter Baylys Dry White	2007	R36
	Swartland	
Allesverloren	2006	R18

Single Malt Whiskies

Speyside

Balvenie	15 year old	R75
Benriach	10 year old	R48
Dalwhinnie	15 year old	R80
Glen Moray	16 year old	R50
Glen Keith	10 year old	R40
Glenfiddich	12 year old	R40
	15 year old	R58
	18 year old	R72
Glenlivet	12 year old	R40
	18 year old	R75
	21 year old	R125
Longmorn	16 year old	R85
Macallan	12 year old	R55
Strathisla	12 year old	R55

Irish

Bushmills	12 year old	R45
	16 year old	R63

Isle of Skye

Talisker	10 year old	R50
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North Highlands

Glenmorangie	10 year old	R45
	18 year old	R110
	Nectar D'or	R55
	The Quinta Ruban	R55
	The Lasanta	R55
Highland Park	10 year old	R50

Islay

Lagavulin	16 year old	R85
Laphroaig	10 year old	R48
Ardbeg	10 year old	R55

Western Highlands

Oban	14 year old	R70
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Blended Whiskies

Ballantines	12 year old	R45
Ballantines	21 year old	R60
Chivas Regal	12 year old	R40
	18 year old	R95
	21 year old	R235
	25 year old	R450
Dimple Haig	15 year old	R45
Famous Grouse	18 year old	R81
Jameson	12 year old	R42
	18 year old	R102
	Gold Reserve	R69
Johnnie Walker	Red	R22
	Black	R35
	Green	R65
	Gold	R92
	Blue	R230
	King George V	R745
Sazerac Rye		R 45

Bourbons

Blantons	Single Barrel	R60
Buffalo Trace		R30
Jack Daniels	Single Barrel	R45
Knob Creek	9 year old	R40
Wild Turkey Rare		R45
WL Weller	12 year old	R35
Woodford Reserve		R38

Cognac and Cape Brandy

Cognac

Bisquit Cognac	VSOP	R50
Courvoisier	VSOP	R48
Hennessey	VSOP	R54
Remy Martin	VSOP	R48
Remy Martin	XO	R198
Martell	VSOP	R60

Armagnac

Alchemist		R55
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Brandy

KWV	10 Year Old	R20
KWV	20 Year Old	R65
Oude Molen Reserve	14 Year Old	R43
Van Ryns Reserve	12Year Old	R47
Van Ryns Reserve	15 Year Old	R83
Sydney Back	10 Year Old	R40
KWV Imoya	VSOP	R35

Grappa

Wilderers	Muscat	R32
Wilderers	Pinotage	R32
Wilderers	Fynbos	R32
Wilderers	Pear Williams	R32

Dalla Cia	Pinot Noir/Chardonnay	R25
	Cabernet/Merlot	R25

Antonella	Cabernet Sauvignon	R35
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Water List

Tap Water is available for your enjoyment, our water is regularly tested by a laboratory that accesses chemical balance as well as any bacteriological containment and is safe to drink.

Aqua D' Or

Paarl

The farm is served by seven springs that generate over three million liters of water per month; the water has a clean, crisp, neutral taste.

Still	1000ml	R35
Still	330ml	R18
Sparkling	1000ml	R35
Sparkling	330ml	R18

Karoo

Paarl

The source is situated in Paardenberg on the Weltevrede Estate. Karoo water is exceptionally pure and has an average mineral content which gives it an alkaline character

Still	1000ml	R35
Still	330ml	R16
Sparkling	1000ml	R35
Sparkling	330ml	R16

Evian

France

Every drop of Evian Natural Spring Water begins as rain and snow falling high in the pristine French Alps. This water then spends at least 15 years slowly filtering through a vast, protective aquifer deep within the mountain. The aquifer consists of glacial sand and that is what gives Evian its unique taste and mineral composition

Still	1000ml	R65
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Voss

Norway

VOSS Artesian Water is amongst the purest waters in the world. Taken from a virgin aquifer shielded for centuries under ice and rock in the untouched wilderness of central Norway.

Still	375ml	R50
Sparkling	375ml	R50

Varieties and Styles at a Glance

MÉTHODE CAP CLASSIQUE

In 1971 the first “Sparkling Wine” in South Africa was released by the Simonsig Estate. This heralded an exciting new phase in South African wine making circles. In 1992 a group of like-minded South African winemakers who had a passion for bottle fermented Sparkling wine, made according to the traditional Champenoise Méthode, joined forces to form the Cap Classique Producer’s Association. The Association’s vision if two fold was to promote South Africa’s premium Méthode Cap Classique wines (MCC) and to ensure that MCC becomes the generic term for these wines, which will enable them to take their rightful place on the world stage. We are pleased to be able to offer you some of South Africa’s finest MCC’s.

CHARDONNAY

Probably the most popular white wine in the world – well liked for its combination of versatility and classicism. It is a noble variety from which the famous white wines of Burgundy are made. Cape winemakers increasingly use it as the basis of Cap Classique sparkling wines. Full-bodied Chardonnays go especially well with creamy dishes, poultry and most types of fish. Medium bodied Chardonnays can be enjoyed with smoked salmon, terrines and cheese.

VIOGNIER

Not a widely planted grape in South Africa. Throughout the rest of the world, it is a rare but fashionable cultivar, found mainly in the Rhone Valley in France. It produces a full-bodied wine and is often wood matured.

WHITE BLENDS

A new wave of excellent Bordeaux styled wines containing Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon are making headlines all over the world. The other dominant white blend style steers more to the Mediterranean making use of varieties such as Chenin Blanc, Viognier, Grenache Blanc and Rousanne.

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Certainly one of the most fashionable wines in “The New World”. The Loire Valley is its home, where it established the reputation for racy white wines. With distinctive fruity flavours and crisp green freshness, this varietal will better suit lighter dishes such as fresh fish and seafood salads.

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

Gewürztraminer is one of the most distinctive of all white table wines. It possesses a bold, exotically flowery aroma reminiscent of litchi, nuts, rose petals, clove and honeysuckle. The wine has full-bodied texture and intensely spicy flavours. Gewürztraminer is a wine to enjoy with Oriental dishes and is the ultimate selection for the person who does not like a too dry nor too sweet wine.

BUKETTRAUBE

Originally this wine came from the Alsace region. South Africa is one of the few wine producing countries to bottle it as a single variety. The wine has a slightly Muscat nose with tropical fruit-salad, dried peach and apricot flavours.

Varieties and Styles at a Glance

CHENIN BLANC

“Some Cape Chenin Blancs have real Old World charm: firm natural acidity, several quite distinctive fruit characters, a light citrus style, a more tropical style which is midway between grapefruit and pineapple.

RHINE RIESLING

Of all the classic white varieties, it is perhaps the most notable for its longevity, developing extraordinary complexity in the bottle over many years and maintaining that peak performance for many more. Enjoy with lightly spiced dishes and fruity desserts.

SÉMILLON

Semillon is considered to be one of the first grape varieties brought from Europe to the Cape. It once dominated the South African vineyards – to the tune of 90% in the 1820's. It now takes up less than one per cent of total vineyard surface. This is largely due to sheer ignorance of this noble varieties identity and provenance. Great accompaniment to any fish dish, particularly prawns and mussels.

RED BLENDS

The exact definition of a Cape Style red blend has yet to be decided. There seems to be consensus that the wine should contain our own grape Pinotage. Though in what percentage seems to be the sticking point. That said the wines below offer some of the finer South African blends. The Bordeaux style wines obviously contain either all or some of the classic Bordeaux grapes. Rhone styled wines are usually lead by Syrah and complemented by Grenache and Mourvedre.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Cabernet is King! Long live the King! The Cape's sure success with Cabernet soon gave rise to consideration of the potential to make the type of blend that gave Bordeaux its star status. In the early 80's this classic tradition of combining Cabernet with Merlot and Cabernet Franc resulted in what is still loosely referred to as “Bordeaux-Style” red blends. Together, they make magic!

CABERNET FRANC

Cabernet Franc, the baby Cabernet, is a black grape variety originating in France and is similar in character to Cabernet Sauvignon. Although generally lighter in tannins and body, it possesses many similar flavours including black cherry, cassis, chocolate, vanilla, spice, and cloves. Cabernet Franc is more likely to have a vegetal or bell-peppery aroma or flavour. Because it is mellower and matures more quickly than Cabernet Sauvignon, it is often used in blending heavier Cabernet's.

MERLOT

All the characteristics that make Merlot so masterfully complementary to Cabernet Sauvignon mark it as a great solo act too. It is the feminine counterpart to Cabernet's masculinity, filling out its partner's almost aromatic herbaceousness and firm, austere structure with fleshy fruit, soft acids, silky tannins and accessible drinkability.

Varieties and Styles at a Glance

PINOTAGE

Developed by Prof. Abraham Perold in 1925, Pinotage is the result of a cross between Pinot Noir and Cinsault (then known as Hermitage). The wine boasts the truly distinctive sweetness of red berry fruit with a characteristic banana-like aroma and flavour.

SHIRAZ / SYRAH

Unsung Shiraz, underrated and understated, but Cape Shiraz offers wine lovers' unplumbed depths of pleasure. The range of Shiraz styles in the Cape are evidence of this grape's generous bounty. Its response to wood extends the flavours even further, with winemakers enhancing its soft sweetness with the vanillins imparted by American Oak: Others believe in classic French Oak to balance its rich fruit and savoury spiciness. Accompany with red meat dishes with sweet and spicy overtones.

PINOT NOIR

Unpredictable in the vineyard, difficult in the cellar, Pinot Noir is nevertheless able to make one of the world's great red wines. Pinot Noir is like a ballerina, fine-tuned and en pointe. It has a rare fluidity, a delicacy, a beguiling beauty that belies an underlying power and structural strength, responsible for an unexpected ability to age.

SOUTH AFRICAN PORT

As with the production of all wines in South Africa there are no hard and fast rules as to where a wine should or for that matter not be made. Calitzdorp, just outside Oudtshoorn, is the pro-claimed capital of port in South Africa. However there are a number of other Estates, some which are quite some distance from Calitzdorp, which produce very fine Ports. This demonstrates the incredible scope and versatility of wine making in South Africa.

NOBLE LATE HARVEST

Each year those wine makers who produce these wines wait for the appearance of Botrytis Cinerea (Noble Rot) to appear on the grapes. The climatic conditions have to be just right. Too cold or too wet or too hot and the harvest will not succeed. This micro-organism reduces the moisture of the grape and concentrates its sugars, and the fungus adds specific character to the eventual wine. Yield from these vines is low and the costs high. This explains the higher price of these wines. However the liquid gold in the bottles is well worth it.

NATURAL SWEET

The most famous wine in this category must be the Vin De Constance known for more than 300 years. Grapes ripen on the vine until raisined with sugar and acidity being concentrated. Very challenging as birds and bees have also discovered the luscious taste of these treasured grapes.

South African Vintages

Choosing a wine based only on vintage can be misleading. In any given vintage there are good and bad wines. The growing conditions from Walker Bay to Calitzdorp to Worcester to the Swartland vary greatly and this would obviously have to be taken into account when looking at the vintage. In addition the winemakers will tell you that it is skill and expertise that count. Added to this is the fact that, unlike France, South African winemakers are not restricted in where they should grow what grape. This means that whilst a particular year may not have been favourable to Pinot Noir it may have been great for Shiraz. However, the vintage of a wine does give a general indication of the growing and ripening conditions of that particular year and thereby some clues as to what one might expect. As with all wines it is always important to remember that the wine is made in the vineyard and not in the cellar.

- 2010** Tricky in the vineyards, great in the cellar. South African vintners are pleased with their 2010 harvest, despite an erratic growing season and severely reduced yields. Following a cold, wet winter, spring was delayed and bud break was two weeks later than normal. The early growing season saw excessive winds, which hampered flowering, resulting in yields that were 20 percent lower than usual.
- 2009** It is fitting that as South Africa records 350 years of wine making, 2009 has delivered what promise to be a great vintage on white and red wines. Having both red and white perform so well in the same vintage is probably what sets 2009 apart from other years.
- 2008** After a late start, winter 2008 was like cape winters of old-plentiful rain and cold, with snow on the mountains. The conditions bolstered both dam and water table levels, and send the vines into deep dormancy. Good snow and frost was experienced in the eastern areas of Carlitzdorp and Klein Karoo.
- 2007** Started hot and fast, ended with rain and lower temperatures. High hopes for elegant, structured whites, notably Sauvignon. Smaller red-grape varieties resulted intense colour and fruit concentration, especially for Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz.
- 2006** Excellent and largely problem free (though complicated by Western Cape Power cuts). Perhaps the best white-wine vintage in a decade – Particularly expressive Sauvignon and expressive Chenin Blanc's. Fleshy, mild tannined reds with lower alcohol level all round.
- 2005** Short early and particularly challenging. Bone dry winter followed by early-season, rains, sparking disease: then prolonged heatwaves. Concentrated if alcoholic reds; whites mostly average, with some exceptions.
- 2004** Still too early to make any concrete predictions. Variable temperatures during harvest could have resulted in an uneven harvest, although if the work had been done in the vineyards then there shouldn't be too much for the winemakers to worry about.

- 2003** Being touted as an exceptional year. Both reds and whites from this vintage are showing great promise. Although in some regions, problems were experienced with later ripening varieties.
- 2002** A challenging year with heat and disease. Generally this vintage will come down to the individual winemakers abilities and track record.
- 2001** Hot and dry were the conditions for this harvest. Large concentrated reds, which should keep. Winemakers who picked between the heat waves produced some lovely whites.
- 2000** Another hot year with the resultant powerful, concentrated reds, which should keep well. The hot weather meant nothing to stellar from the whites.
- 1999** Near perfect ripening conditions resulted in fat, alcoholic and full of fruit reds. These are best enjoyed sooner rather than later. Some fruity whites from Chardonnay and Chenin Blanc.
- 1998** Rated as an excellent vintage for reds. Big, lusty wines with strong tannins and sufficient fruits to ensure good maturation. Whilst the whites showed good fruits these were not for cellaring.
- 1997** One of the coolest on record this vintage was slow ripening. Although there was a downy mildew problem, if controlled the resultant wines were elegant and well rounded. Whites showed beautiful aromas and balance.
- 1996** A very damp year, which resulted in the wines, both red and white, lacking in concentration. Noble Late Harvest wines did benefit from the Botrytis favouring conditions
- 1995** Dry and hot, although not as bad as 1994. Resulted in very big, concentrated reds with good maturation potential.
- 1994** The hottest and driest vintage on record. This resulted in variable quality. Though early ripening varieties fared well.
- 1993** A year without any serious mishaps in weather and the resultant wines showed this. Good white and red wines.
- 1992** A coolish year resulting in slower ripening favoured the whites especially Sauvignon Blanc. Some outstanding reds in particular Pinotage.
- 1991** A dry, warm year favoured mid season ripening grapes. Some very concentrated and long lasting reds.
- 1990** An uneven year with alternating heat and cold. This resulted in mostly average whites, middling reds with some very good Cabernet Sauvignons.
- 1980's** As a rough rule the even years (82, 84 and 86), which were slightly warmer favoured red wines. The odd years were cooler and produced better whites. Two noticeable exceptions to this were '87 and in particular '89 which produced wonderful reds.