

2019 Vilafonté Series C

The 2019 Series C opens with a broad and structured nose that displays elegant oak tones and a juicy and fresh frame of succulent dark red fruits, offering power and finesse with a delightful mineral essence that overflows with plum skin and spiced cherries. Medium to full-bodied, the Series C offers a fine-grained tannic edge that possesses the focus, elegance and precision of a world-class wine. Vibrant acidity excites the palate with a succulent balance across the mid-palate, revealing layers of complexity as the wine somersaults to a long, lingering, juicy, oak-tinged finish. This is some of South Africa's finest juice, which has me smitten. Bravo! I'm going to finish the glass! Give it one more year in the bottle and drink it over the next couple of decades.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2020 Mvemve Raats De Compostella

The 2020 De Compostella is composed of 30% Cabernet Franc, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Malbec, 16% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. Beginning with a focused, juicy and complex nose of dark red fruits, the wine has impeccable balance between oak, fruit and earthy floral tones. Full-bodied and with succulent acidity, the palette offers a firm frame of fine-grained tannins, while the fruit profile makes way for elegant earth and notes of crème de cassis sway with subtle flavors of sage and spiced plum. The red blend continues to somersault and reveal its complexities over the long-lingering and ever-evolving finish. Be patient with this exceptional wine. It's gorgeous now but will have no problem aging for two decades, possibly beyond. Your patience will be rewarded. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)



95+

2019 Vilafonté Series M

Coming from the smallest vintage per hectare since Vilafonté started, the 2019 Series M offers incredible concentration and focus on the nose, which is marked with oak, ripe plum and dark cherry skin aromas before delicate dusty roses and lavender notes waft from the glass. The wine compresses on the palate to reveal a firm tannic structure with brilliant, energetic acidity that is slightly nervous now but will benefit from one more year in the bottle and age like a champion. Just give it time, and your patience will be rewarded. Even though they had low yields, the quality is evident and paramount. It's a stunner!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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95+

2018 Glenelly Estate Lady May

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 3% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and the remainder Cabernet Franc, the 2018 Lady May is firm and red-fruited with a broad yet compact frame. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is generous and juicy on the palate with a robust frame. It is slightly shy in its cocoon phase and should reemerge in about five years and remain a stoic and epic South African red blend for decades to come. This is what you want in your cellar.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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94+

2018 Uva Mira Mountain Vineyards Single Tree Chardonnay

Exploding from the glass with a brilliant nose of devastatingly gorgeous aromas, the 2018 Single Tree Chardonnay possesses depth, breadth, finesse and power with layers of vanilla, oak spices, sweet citrus and lemon pastry cream. Medium-bodied, the wine offers impeccable balance on the palate, worthy of being compared to Burgundy. It has gobs of complexity while possessing the freshness of the New World with the texture and weight of the Old World. This stunning Chardonnay will please almost every Chardonnay drinker. The wine spent nine months in 50% new French barrels. Only 1,200 bottles were produced. Bravo. I'll be adding some of this to my cellar.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Reyneke Cabernet Sauvignon

Only made in exceptional vintages, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon is the fourth vintage ever bottled. It is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with a broadly structured and focused nose that offers layers of dark fruit aromas with seductive oak tones. Medium to full-bodied, the wine somersaults across the palate with elegance and finesse, offering an incredible balance of succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins with a seamlessly integrated oak expression before gliding to a fantastic and world-class finish. Only 1,100 bottles were produced. You'll want to add this to your cellar. Give it one more year in the bottle and drink it until its 20th birthday.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Kaapzicht Steytler Pentagon

Composed of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 8% Petit Verdot and 4% Malbec, the 2020 Steytler Pentagon is brilliantly expressive, capturing elegance, finesse and power. Succulent layers of blackberry, dark cherry and crème de cassis waft from the nose with precision. Full-bodied and layered, with a gorgeous frame of succulent blackberry flavors with hints of turned earth and inky purple flowers, the complex mouthfeel continues to show its generosity before exploding with an incredibly juicy edge. This juggernaut is at the top of its class of the big, bold Cabernet Sauvignon blends and should continue to drink well for the next decade and a half. Bravo! I'm going back to finish the glass.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2017 Rust en Vrede 1694 Classification

An instantly impressive wine, the 2017 1694 Classification is composed of 59% Syrah and 41% Cabernet Sauvignon. The nose explodes with bold, dark fruit tones with blackberry, black plums and notions of elegant brown baking spices before notes of crème de cassis and blackcurrant join with notes of potpourri and spiced plum compote. Full-bodied and with 14.9% alcohol, the palate expresses a firm tannic structure that is more masculine in style with juicy, almost hedonistic dark fruits and spices that dominate the palate before releasing to show a generously structured, spicy wine that continues with persistence on the long, lingering and ever-evolving finish. Bravo! This gorgeous wine will need a couple of years more in the cellar and will continue to age well past its 20th birthday. Your patience will be rewarded with this bottle.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2018 Stellenzicht Acheulean Red

Composed of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Shiraz and 15% Cinsault, the 2018 Acheulean Red offers a generous nose with juicy, plump blackberry, spiced plum compote and oak essences. Full-bodied, the wine shows power, focus and finesse without being heavy-handed before expressing more red fruits on the palate. It shows that the Shiraz can work brilliantly together in harmony with the other varieties. The wine has an elongated finish that has me craving red meats and chops. This spent 18 months in 40% new French oak. Only 3,240 bottles were produced. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Keermont Vineyards Topside Syrah

More floral than the Steepsides Syrah, the 2017 Topside Syrah offers an herbal left with red and purple flowers, lavender and a delightful mineral essence with graphite. Full-bodied on the palate, the wine continues to evolve over the complex and elongated finish showing subtle flavors of red and black peppercorn with notes of black plum skin and dark cherries. This will show better in time—I recommend giving it one more year in the bottle, but it will come around and remain a powerhouse for the next 10 to 12 years. Just over 2,500 bottles were produced after the wine aged for just under two years in French oak barrels. Bravo, I'm going back for another sip!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Glenelly Estate Lady May

The 2017 Lady May is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with splashes of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The nose opens with a juicy and generously structured frame with oak essences and spiced black fruit elements. Medium to full-bodied, the palate provides sweet oak flavors with a firm tannic edge before melting away to reveal a fine mineral tension and bright acidity. This beauty has plenty of life left in it and will have no problem aging for a couple more decades. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2016 Keermont Vineyards Amphitheater

Composed of 29% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Cabernet Franc, 19% Merlot, 17% Malbec and 8% Petit Verdot, the 2016 Amphitheater offers a deep and expressive nose that is still tight and will benefit from one more year in the bottle. Full-bodied, powerful and expressive, this gorgeous blend walks the line with an elegant and refined texture, succulent acidity and firm tannins. The red blend continues to uncoil, revealing a spicy, elongated finish that will have no trouble aging past its 20th birthday. After almost two years of resting in seasoned French barrels, 7,508 bottles were produced and set aside for three years of bottle aging prior to release. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Carinus Family Vineyards Rooidraai

Coming from a dry-farmed vineyard in Swartland, the 2021 Rooidraai is 100% Chenin Blanc that possesses power, brightness and purity that is instantly impressive. Bright notes of honeysuckle and seductive oak tones lift out of the glass with notes of citrus blossom and dusty lemon skin. Light to medium-bodied but with no shortness in length, the wine somersaults with a delicate mineral tension, possessing a crystalline purity, offering focus, finesse and a kiss of phenolic bitterness with impressive weight and power on the palate. The wine unfolds and uncoils over the long, spicy, mineral-laced finish, revealing an absolutely fantastic expression of Chenin Blanc. Keep your eyes peeled for more awesome things from Carinus Family Vineyards.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2020 Le Riche Richesse

Crafted in the historically important South African style, the 2020 Richesse is a blend of 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Cinsault, 16% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 12% Petit Verdot and 1% Malbec. The nose bursts with succulent red fruit aromas of bright cherry skin, red plum and juicy cassis alongside notions of black raspberry and red and purple flowers, showing refinement and precision. Medium to full-bodied, the wine offers excellent balance while oozing with finesse and grace, and the palate provides fantastic action. This wonderfully long and subtly spicy wine has a succulent, fresh and juicy finish. It will remain food friendly until its 15th birthday—probably longer, and it continues to bring me back for a second and third sip. Bravo. I'm adding some to my cellar and recommend that you do too.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)



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2016 Le Riche Steynsrust Cabernet Sauvignon

Perhaps the most attractive in the glass right now of the new range is the 2016 Steynsrust Cabernet Sauvignon, with its juicy and ripe notion that is devastatingly gorgeous. Medium to full-bodied, the wine offers power, elegance and precision that seduces me with its finesse. The wine continues to unpack and uncoil in the mouth, revealing additional layers of complexities as it glides to an elongated finish. This is my favorite of the bunch and has me thinking about steaks on the grill. The wine matured in all-new French oak barrels for a couple years. Only 600 bottles were produced. Keep your eye out for this gorgeous wine.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2012 Rust en Vrede Estate Red

Checking back in on the 2012 Estate Red, which is produced with 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Syrah and 8% Merlot, the wine is still amazingly fresh. The nose bursts to life with fresh and healthy red fruit aromas with a dusty floral expression that sways with the delightful lift from oak and brown baking spices. Full-bodied, the wine offers excellent balance with lively acidity and will continue to age like a champ. This sprightly wine shows its youth as it somersaults to an elongated finish with hints of herbal essence on the aftertaste. Bravo! This beauty has plenty of life left in it.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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93+

2020 De Morgenzon The Divas Chenin Blanc

Weighted and broadly structured, the 2020 The Divas Chenin Blanc has a pale gold color and a relatively restrained nose. Medium to full-bodied, the palate shows incredible depth and texture while beaming with bright acidity and a nutty essence that will grow in complexity with years in the bottle. Be patient; this silent giant will age beautifully.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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93+

2020 L'Avenir Single Block Chenin Blanc

The 2020 Single Block Chenin Blanc is an exceptional wine with a captivating nose and luscious fruit aromas. It originates from a single block, Block 30, that was planted with vines in 1973. Flavors of peach and apricot explode in the mouth, accompanied by a tantalizing wax melon that will leave you salivating. The electrifying mineral tension and mouthfeel are commanding and elegant, and this is a masterclass in balance. This succulent Chenin Blanc exhibits lively acidity throughout the long and lingering finish, making it an indispensable addition to any wine collection. This comes highly recommended. Bravo!

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93+

2020 B Vintners Liberte

A fantastic and lively expression, the 2020 Liberte is fresh, juicy and vibrant, rocketing from the glass with focus and precision. Light to medium-bodied, the wine offers fleshy red fruits with succulent acidity and will remain food-friendly beyond its 10th birthday. This delightful Pinotage concludes with a juicy, crushable essence that emanates with notions of spiced cherry blossoms with potpourri before ending with a spicy, food-friendly finish. Only 1,200 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 18 months in French oak.

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93+

2020 Beeslaar Pinotage

Marked with generous oak tones, the 2020 Pinotage offers generously layered, elegant, juicy aromas of ripe blackberries, spiced plum reduction and cherry-vanilla pastries. Full-bodied and very juicy, the palate is balanced with a fruit-forward frame and an oaky backbone, displaying more winemaking and style rather than varietal purity and expression. The generous, oak-driven wine ends with a juicy, ripe frame and vanilla-laced finish. For those who collect and enjoy the Kanonkop Black Label Pinotage, you'll want to add this to your cellar.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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93+

2020 Kaapzicht Steytler Vision Cape Blend

Just over half Pinotage with 48% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Merlot, the 2020 Steytler Vision Cape Blend is juicy, ripe and spicy with a generous and focused nose, with rich and round dark fruit essences that waft from the glass. This fantastic red blend overdelivers and is made in limited quantities. Collectors of generously layered and oak-driven red wines should take note of this juicy and impressive red blend. Its delightfully layered and succulent juicy fruit tones beg me back for more. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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93+

2019 Le Riche Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve

The nose is still primary but impressive nonetheless, offering layers of juicy fruit tones with hints of sweet oak and herbal notions. Medium to full-bodied, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve has succulent acidity and will have no problem aging to its 15th birthday. The wine continues to evolve in the mouth, ending with a delightfully lingering, spicy finish. It spent two years in French oak barrels, 92% new. This beauty has me daydreaming of flame-kissed chops from the grill. Only 6,740 bottles were produced. Give it a try!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Thelema Mountain Vineyards Rabelais

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 10% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Rabelais bursts out of the glass with sweet herbal essences and dark red and black fruit aromas tied to sappy oak tones before offering a minty herbal line that doesn't give up. Medium-bodied, the palate displays a sturdy mouthfeel with plenty of staying power, offering a round texture with surprising breadth and depth. The wine continues to unpack and uncoil, showing additional layers of complexity before reaching a firm, long-lingering finish. The wine aged for 20 months in all new French oak barrels. 9,200 bottles were produced. It's a beautiful wine that will age gracefully over the next 10 to 13 years. Your patience will be rewarded.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2019 Stark-Condé Oude Nektar

Made from 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petit Verdot, the 2019 Oude Nektar starts with a firm nose with elegance, power and precision. Layers of juicy dark red and black fruit aromas explode from the glass with floral and herbal essences. Medium-bodied, this offers layers of fruit, fresh florals and fine herbs before displaying fine-grained tannins as the wine continues to unfold and uncoil on the mid-palate, offering delectable flavors of red plum and dark cherry with hints of sage and spiced lavender. The Cabernet blend has a focused and complex finish, while persistent notes of juicy plum and pencil shavings swirl on the elongated aftertaste. Just under 3,300 bottles were produced. Give it one more year in the bottle and drink over the next 10 to 12 years. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)



93+

2019 De Toren Book XVII

The 2019 Book XVII is mineral-driven on the nose with spicy dark fruit essences and elements of dusty flowers in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the wine offers subtle notions of graphite and pencil shavings, showing a youthful yet firm structure before gripping tannins clamp down on the gumline. Give it another year or two in the bottle to loosen, and enjoy with food.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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93+

2018 Rust en Vrede Estate Red

Composed of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon with 30% Syrah and 9% Merlot, the 2018 Estate Red is fresh, juicy and succulent, offering hints of tobacco, red and black peppercorn, black cherry with subtle notes of black raspberry and brown baking spices. Full-bodied and with 14.8% alcohol, the palate is juicy and firm and needs time in the bottle to find its stride. With firm tannic grip, this wine will benefit from two more years of bottle aging. Put it in your cellar and let it sleep.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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93+

2018 Stark-Condé Oude Nektar

The 2018 Oude Nektar is made of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon with 10% Petit Verdot and 5% Malbec. The nose offers dark red fruits with hints of green herbal essences and reminds me of a young Bordeaux with a juicy and refined expression. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has fine mineral tension that will remain food-friendly and age like a champ. Don't be afraid of a little bit of herbaceousness, as the bay leaf and laurel aspect will work well with a wide variety of dishes and cuisine. This comes highly recommended.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Beyerskloof Cape Blend Faith

A blend of 40% Pinotage, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot, the 2018 Cape Blend Faith wafts with notions of purple flowers, spice, plum reduction and dark cherry and blackberry notes before seductive oak spices sway from the glass. Full-bodied and brilliantly balanced, the wine has elegance and power compounded by precision and finesse. This devastatingly beautiful wine ends with a spicy, long-lingering finish. The wine aged in all-new French oak for 22 months. Bravo! I'm going back for a second and third sip! 3,000 bottles produced.

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93+

2017 Kanonkop Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon opens with pleasant red fruit aromas complemented by subtle oak spice. Notes of pencil shavings, graphite, blackberry, plum and dark cherry come through, creating a ripe and juicy nose. The palate is medium to full-bodied and offers balanced tannins with a refined focus on fresh oak spices. The finish is spicy with lingering hints of soft herbs and cigar box flavors. This wine is currently drinking well and has the potential to improve with time. The wine aged for two years in French oak barrels, 50% new. 72,000 bottles produced.

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93+

2015 Waterford Estate The Jem

A quick check back on the 2015 The Jem reveals that it is still alive, fresh and juicy, showing its generous frame with everything and balance. Full-bodied, the palate is broad-shouldered with buttressing tannins, provides succulent acidity and is showing among the best of the 2015s recently tasted. The wine uncoils on the palate, offering layers of complexity before reaching a ripe, spicy and juicy finish. Nicely done!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Chenin Blanc

Initially subdued on the nose, the 2021 Family Reserve Chenin Blanc is mineral and citrusy with hints of vanilla spice that waft from the glass. However, it explodes with energetic acidity that beams across the mid-palate with bright citrus notes that shine, illuminating a waxy texture and food-friendly mouthfeel. The wine ends with succulent acidity and lingering flavors of sweet citrus, Meyer lemon and a kiss of phenolic bitterness. Wow. This has me coming back for more and continues to evolve with each sip. 12,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Stellenzicht Acheulean Chardonnay

Starting with a balanced nose of apple and citrus aromas, the 2020 Acheulean Chardonnay offers notes of pear drop with a kiss of brown baking spices. Medium-bodied, the palate provides fine mineral tension with a focused texture and well-defined acidity before offering notes of bright lemon flavors with yellow apple essence. The wine continues to unfold and unpack, revealing additional complexities before gliding to a graceful finish that exudes focus and precision. The wine spent 11 months in a mix of amphora and 33% new oak. 1,470 bottles were created. Bravo. I'm going back for another sip.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Kaapzicht Steytler Pinotage

Dark-fruited and generously structured, the 2020 Steytler Pinotage is fresh, layered and bold, offering gobs of juicy fruit essence on the nose. Full-bodied and with 14.9% alcohol on the label, the palate is plummy and oaky with plenty of juicy freshness with a generous yet balanced structure. The wine grows in amplitude, offering more layers of complexity over the long, juicy, fruit-forward finish. This big and beefy Pinotage rested for 20 months in 80% new oak barrels before being bottled. Bravo!

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2020 Warwick Estate Professor Black Pitch Black

Composed of 39% Cabernet Franc, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cinsault, 10% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 6% Malbec, the 2020 Professor Black Pitch Black is layered with juicy red fruits without being overdone on the nose, offering layers of dusty florals and spiced plum. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a fantastic balance with vibrant acidity and fine-grained tannins, showing plenty of life left in the wine before gliding to a long, complex finish. The wine matured for 18 months in French oak barrels, just under 20% new. 17,610 bottles were produced. Well done. It's a delicious wine that will continue to drink well for the next 10+ years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Rainbow's End Cabernet Franc Limited Release

Exploding with focus and precision with classic, fresh and herbal notes of sage, thyme and sweet pepper skin, the 2020 Cabernet Franc Limited Release is instantly impressive as it emanates with aromas of tart red plum and Bing cherry. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is packed with complexity, offering layers of picturesque red fruit and herbal essences, which are lifted by delightful oak spices and succulent tannins. The Cabernet Franc continues to evolve over the long, lingering, spicy and food-friendly finish, proving that it is, hands down, one of South Africa's best Cabernet Francs. It's utterly captivating and has me coming back for seconds and thirds. I can't put down my glass!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 De Morgenzon Reserve Syrah

Fresh, bright and classic with aromas of black peppercorn, the 2020 Reserve Syrah offers layers of complexity with spice, earth and juicy red fruit essence. Medium to full-bodied, the palate provides delightful and seductive flavors of bacon crème brûlée, spiced plum compote and potpourri. Balanced, desirable and firing on all cylinders, this is a fantastic expression of Syrah that is already punching above its weight class. Keep a lookout for this beautiful and savory wine!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Kanonkop Black Label Pinotage

The 2019 Black Label Pinotage is more generous than most, with a fresh and juicy aroma with a hint of reduction. Made with 100% new French oak, the full-bodied Pinotage has lush oak flavors with a tight, gripping, tannic edge. You'll notice notes of juicy plum reduction, blackberry puree, potpourri and red peppercorn flavors as you drink it. The wine finishes gracefully and lingers on the palate with a firm tannic edge and a mineral-laced conclusion. The wine aged for a year and a half in new French oak. Only 6,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Rustenberg Peter Barlow

Instantly impressive in the glass, the 2019 Peter Barlow offers elegance, precision and power with a balanced frame of fruits layered with fresh blackberries, spiced plums and dark cherry skin with delightful floral notes and brown baking spices from elegant French oak. Full-bodied, impeccably balanced and showing layers of complexity, the palate is brilliant and continues to uncoil, revealing its secrets over the elongated finish. Bravo! The wine rested for 20 months in 64% new French oak barrels. Only 13,000 bottles of this fantastic Cabernet were produced. You'll want to add some of this to your cellar.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Hartenberg Estate Gravel Hill Syrah

The 2018 Gravel Hill Syrah displays an electric pink rim and deep purple core. The wine is a powerhouse with firm blackberry juice essence that mingles with dark spiced plum, crème de cassis and juicy dark cherry before brown baking spices, dusty flowers and dried herbs waft from the glass. Full-bodied, rich, round and tannic, the wine will remain food-friendly through the next decade. This delightful, full-throttle Syrah concludes with a long, spicy and juicy finish and is not for the faint of heart. The wine rested for 19 months in French oak, 70% new. 3,160 bottles produced. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Ernie Els Proprietor's Blend

The 2018 Proprietor's Blend is composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Syrah and 5% each of Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec. Expressive aromas of dark, juicy fruits waft from the glass with elements of brown baking spices and dusty purple flowers. Full-bodied, the palate reveals flavors of dark chocolate and crème de cassis as glossy ripe fruit tones wade across the mid-palate with class and precision before concluding with a bold, juicy, food-friendly finish and lingering tannic edge. The wine aged 95% French oak barrels (35% new) and 5% American oak. 13,750 bottles produced. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Zevenwacht The Tin Mine Red Blend

Composed of 53% Mourvèdre, 42% Shiraz and 5% Grenache, the 2020 The Tin Mine Red Blend is a classic GSM blend with smoky, spicy and meaty aromas, with hints of leather and caramelized bacon, before opening up to ripe, picturesque red-fruited aromas that express themselves with a red and black peppercorn essence. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced and fresh with flavors of bacon brûlée and spiced plum compote before fine-grained tannins emerge on the mid-palate. This expression and mouthfeel remind me of something from Walla Walla Valley. The wine was made with 20% whole cluster fruit and aged in 20% new French oak. 10,700 bottles were produced. I'm going back for another sip. Well done!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2018 Neil Ellis Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek Valley

Tasted in a vertical sequence, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek Valley is juicy, fresh and ripe with a red-fruited frame and soft notions of pencil shavings. The nose continues to reveal elegant oak tones with layers of black plum and dark cherry. Medium to full-bodied, the wine gives way to layers of bright, healthy fruit as a brilliant frame of succulent acidity and juicy tannins melt away, revealing a sturdy and well-made wine with gobs of complexity. The Cabernet continues to somersault across the long, winding and ever-evolving finish and will age like a champ over the next 12 to 13 years. The wine aged for a year and a half in 100% new French oak barrels. Just over 12,000 bottles were produced. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2018 Uva Mira Mountain Vineyards O.T.V.

Composed of 59% Cabernet Franc and 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2018 O.T.V. offers a Bordeaux-esque nose with notions of graphite and pencil shavings with dusty red fruits and flowers before elegant oak tones emerge from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is bright with a fresh line of herbal essences that mingle with dusty red fruit skin before succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins take center stage. The wine continues to uncoil with time on the palate, offering a lingering, mineral-laced, spicy finish. It spent 18 months in French oak, 65% new. 1,400 bottles were produced. Give this one more year in the bottle and drink over the next 10 to 13 years. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Rust en Vrede Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

Juicy, firm and broadly aromatic with notes of pencil shavings and blackberry reduction, the 2018 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is focused, fresh and generous. Full-bodied, the palate is balanced, complex and focused, showing a firm tannic edge with supporting acidity. The wine uncoils to show more complexity with time in the mouth before gliding to a graceful, lingering, ever-evolving finish. Drink over the next 10 to 12 years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Keermont Vineyards Steepside Syrah

Deep and brooding with a mineral-driven nose, the 2017 Steepside Syrah offers black fruit aromas with herbs and spices that are delightfully reminiscent of Cornas. There are soft hints of meat and black pepper followed by notes of olive tapenade that float out of the glass with a fresh frame of dusty fruit. Full-bodied, the palate offers impeccable balance with succulent acidity and round yet firm tannins that drive through the lingering and spicy finish. Only 2,580 bottles were produced. This is fantastic juice!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2008 De Toren Z

Juicy, bright and with a plummy frame, the 2008 Z is fresh and complex with notes of dusty purple blossoms and sakura. Medium to full-bodied, the wine unfolds to reveal fresh, lively, elegant fruit tones that sway with notes of spice and oak flavors before ending with a refined and complex finish. Decant for at least 30 minutes.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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NV Keermont Vineyards Fleurfontein

Made from 62% of Sauvignon Blanc and 38% Roussanne, the NV Fleurfontein is slightly volatile on the nose with aromas of golden apricots and peach skin. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is beautifully balanced without being overly sweet, offering hints of honey, ripe citrus and candied mango with peach nectar. The wine continues to uncoil on the palate, revealing a fresh, clean finish with lingering flavors of dried apple and apricot purée. Only 1,727 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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NV Ken Forrester Dirty Little Secret Three

Made from a blend of four vintages—2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020—the NV Dirty Little Secret Three starts with a fresh nose of vanilla pastry cream before bursting with a bright, fresh, clean citrus and pomaceous character. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a delightful mineral tension, shows an incredibly focused mid-palate with balanced acidity and concludes with a long, food-friendly finish. This wine is a fantastic surprise and should make a convert out of anyone who doesn't quite enjoy Chenin Blanc.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Botanica Wines Flower Girl Albariño

An excellent example of capturing varietal purity, the 2022 Flower Girl Albariño explodes with precision and finesse, wafting with notions of stone fruit, citrus blossoms and yellow apples. Medium-bodied, the wine is picturesque with a delicate frame that unfolds on the palate, revealing a kiss of sweetness with a soft nuance of phenolic bitterness and mineral tension. The wine concludes with fresh white peach skin and yellow cherries before lingering with sweet citrus and Meyer lemon. Bravo, what a delightful and surprisingly delicious wine that displays impressive staying power over the course of days. Only 3,600 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Zevenwacht The Tin Mine White Blend

The 2021 The Tin Mine White Blend is made from 37% Chenin Blanc, 34% Chardonnay, 11% Roussanne, 11% Viognier and 7% Sémillon. The nose has soft oaky spices and citrus aromas, while showing succulent floral essences. Medium to full-bodied, the palate displays delightful notes of stone fruit with yellow apples and a succulent acid backbone. The wine ends with delectable flavors of sweet citrus and oak spices over the wonderfully elongated finish. The wine rested on the lees for nine months before bottling. Only 7,500 bottles were produced.

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92+

2021 Ken Forrester The FMC

Starting with fresh, ripe aromas of pineapple and wax melon, the 2021 The FMC is focused on the nose with notes of sweet Meyer lemon and jasmine. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fresh with a kiss of phenolic bitterness, offering a delightful weight in the mouth that will remain food-friendly for over a decade. The wine ends with a brilliant, fresh-fruited finish. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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92+

2021 Lanzerac Mrs. English Chardonnay

Starting with layers of fresh fruit, the 2021 Mrs. English Chardonnay is brilliant upon approach with fresh citrus and a pomaceous character. Medium to full-bodied, the wine offers fantastic finesse with layers of Meyer lemon, yellow apple and poached pear flavors before offering delightful mineral tension with notions of marzipan. This gorgeous Chardonnay continues to unwind and uncoil in the mouth, revealing fantastic texture and lively acidity over the long, spicy finish. The wine spent 11 months in French oak barrels, 40% new. 4,400 bottles were produced. Give it a try.

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92+

2021 Warwick Estate The White Lady Chardonnay

The 2021 The White Lady Chardonnay offers delightful aromas of lemon pastry cream, marzipan and oak essence with hints of lees. Medium-bodied and with lovely weight and texture, the palate reveals flavors of peaches and cream with a citrus blossom essence before notes of oak and sweet apple take over the lively and zesty finish. The wine fermented in Burgundian French oak barrels, 32% first fill. Just under 18,000 bottles were produced. Nicely done.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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92+

2021 Glenelly Estate Estate Reserve Chardonnay

Bright and expressive, the 2021 Estate Reserve Chardonnay is nimble with a voluminous frame and slightly nervous nose with hints of citrus blossom. Medium to full-bodied, the Chardonnay has impeccable weight and a fine mineral tension that continues to unwind and uncoil across the mid-palate. This delightful and food-friendly wine will continue to please until the end of the decade. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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92+

2021 Kaapzicht The 1947 Chenin Blanc

Impressively weighted and oaky, the 2021 The 1947 Chenin Blanc is expressive with notes of wax melon and elegant citrus blossom essence that waft with white peach and nectarine notes. Medium to full-bodied, brown baking spices sway across the mid-palate with almond and lemon pastry cream flavors. It has an elegant mouthfeel, power, precision and a riper and fuller expression that compounds over the long and expressive finish. Put this on your shopping list if you enjoy oak-driven Chardonnay with elegance and finesse. This is an elegant and seductive Chenin Blanc. Bravo.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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92+

2021 Stark-Condé Monk Stone Chenin Blanc

Bursting from the glass with a mineral backbone and bright lemony essence, the 2021 Monk Stone Chenin Blanc offers notions of wax melon with citrus blossom essence on the nose. Medium-bodied, this has excellent mineral tension with a fresh and crisp mouthfeel that is immensely pleasing before ending with a lingering, spicy finish that has me daydreaming of fresh shellfish and cheeses. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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92+

2020 Simonsig Merindol Syrah

Starting with aromas of black peppercorn, dark cherry and dusty plum, the 2020 Merindol Syrah offers hints of leather and wilted purple flowers on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is spicy and shows flavors of cinnamon and vanilla before earthy and rustic notes of turned earth and crushed peppercorns emerge on the palate. There's a spicy lingering finish with persistent oak flavors on the aftertaste. I suspect this will show better with bottle age. 6,000 bottles were produced.

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92+

2020 Simonsig Redhill Pinotage

Made with 20% whole-cluster fruit, the 2020 Redhill Pinotage starts with a ripe and juicy nose of fresh dark red fruits and juicy blackberry essences. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a fresh frame of succulent acidity with fine-grained tannins before offering spice notes and potpourri over the food-friendly finish. This will perform beautifully when paired with food. The wine aged for 19 months in 70% new French oak barrels. 12,000 bottles were produced. Bravo!

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92+

2020 Capensis Chardonnay Silene

Balanced, oaky and with notions of sweet citrus, the 2020 Chardonnay Silene offers notes of golden delicious apple, sweet pear and brown baking spices with delicate aromas of citrus blossoms. Medium to full-bodied, the Chardonnay shows impressive balance with an elegant frame of ripe citrus and pomaceous character before succulent acidity drives the finish, showing layered expressions of oak essence, citrus and delightful minerality on the aftertaste. Bravo! Just under 20,000 bottles were filled after the wine rested for 10 months in French oak, 30% first fill. Give it a try.

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92+

2020 Kara-Tara Pinot Noir Reserve

Starting with savory undertones, the 2020 Pinot Noir Reserve jumps out of the glass with notions of forest floor, cinnamon spice and a seductive floral element that draws me in. Medium to full-bodied, the wine has impressive weight on the palate, with layers of spiciness and a refined lingering red-fruit nature and is balanced with succulent tannins and lively acidity. It's a fantastic expression that will surely please New World Pinot Noir lovers. Only 741 bottles were produced. Give it a try.

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92+

2020 Tempel Wines Oogwink

Named after the phrase that translates into "in the blink of an eye," the 2020 Oogwink comes with a compressed frame of red florals before red spices and black peppercorn mingle with hints of cured sausages. Medium to full-bodied, the palate displays fine-grained tannins with elegance and precision, offering up notes of peppercorn with dusty cherry flavors before somersaulting to a wonderfully spiced and delightful finish. It's fantastic now, but I have no doubt it will be an elegant stunner once it has matured a few years longer in the bottle.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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92+

2019 KWV Roodeberg 1949

Composed of 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Tempranillo, 12% Carignan, 11% Merlot, 11% Petit Verdot and 6% Cabernet Franc, the 2019 Roodeberg 1949 offers a spicy nose with juicy notes of vanilla, crunchy red fruit, red cherry skin, crème de cassis, cigar box, dusty bread flowers and juicy tobacco. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers fine-grained tannins with juicy acidity, a food-friendly mouthfeel and notes of potpourri that have me craving flame-kissed meats and wild game. This delightfully complex red blend was aged 18 months in 70% new French oak barrels. Give it a try.

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92+

2019 Hartenberg Estate Shiraz

Brooding in the glass with a juicy and ripe core of dark blackberry fruit aromas, the 2019 Shiraz hints at succulent blueberry skins with classic notes of red and black peppercorns compounded by oak spices. Full-bodied, the wine somersaults across the mid-palate with a balanced structure leaving behind flavors of dusty dark chocolate and blackberry essence. It ends with a firm tannic edge and will remain food-friendly through the end of this decade. The wine rested for 19 months in 30% new French oak barrels. Just under 22,000 bottles were produced. Give it a try.

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92+

2019 Miles Mossop Wines Sam

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 5% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot, the 2019 Sam is ripe and fresh with picturesque red fruits that sway with elegance and finesse before offering oak spices with soft florals on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the red blend is bright, nimble and food friendly, offering a balanced frame with succulent tannins before concluding with a long, spicy finish that has me coming back for more. The wine rested for 22 months in French oak, almost half new barrels. Just under 1,300 bottles were produced.

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92+

2019 Eikendal Classique

The 2019 Classique is a blend of 58% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that rockets out of the glass with a wonderfully juicy and round nature. Its glossy shine offers ripe and healthy fruit tones, exquisite sweet oak essences and aromas of resinous purple flowers. This full-bodied wine is layered and complex, boasting power and finesse and a graceful, age-worthy finish. It matured in 300-liter French oak barrels, 40% new. 7,000 bottles produced. This blend will show better in time.

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92+

2019 Keermont Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon

Bursting from the glass with dark, ripe, black and red fruit aromas, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon is already showing its depth and precision with a juicy, black-berried frame, oaky essence and balanced notes of herbs and spice that are seamlessly integrated. Full-bodied, the palate is firm and broadly structured, with a juicy frame of food-friendly tannins. Just under 2,300 bottles were produced.

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92+

2018 Dornier Equanimity Cabernet Sauvignon

A complex and vibrant wine, the 2018 Equanimity Cabernet Sauvignon is ripe and fresh on the nose with vibrant black fruit and layers of red plums, hints of spice and a soft oaky character that lingers on the palate. The full-bodied wine has a firm tannic edge that will allow it to age gracefully for years to come. The finish is succulent and food-friendly, with just-ripe fruit. This Cabernet Sauvignon clocks in at 14.5% alcohol and was aged for 18 months in 30% new French oak barrels. Only 7,500 bottles were made. Enjoy now or later!

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92+

2018 Capensis Fijnbosch Chardonnay

The 2018 Fijnbosch Chardonnay is instantly impressive in the glass with aromas of popcorn kernel, sweet citrus, brown baking spices, ripe yellow apple and hints of graham cracker. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is open and accessible, with gobs of yellow citrus flavors before oak tones sway into focus, with delightfully fresh, energetic acidity. The mid-palate shows surprising weight, and the wine ends with a fantastic finish that should drink well for another decade or so. Just under 700 bottles were produced after the wine aged in French oak barrels, 50% new. This beauty should please most New World Chardonnay drinkers.

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92+

2018 De Toren Z

Boasting ripe, dark red fruit tones, the 2018 Z is focused with a frame of oak before swaying with red and purple flowers and ripe, dusty plum. Medium to full-bodied, the mostly Merlot blend shows an expressive and elegant frame with soft herbal essences, juicy and succulent black cherries and subtle herbal notes of sage. It ends with a broad and tannic edge on the long-lingering finish. I'm going back for seconds. It's a well-made, delicious wine. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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92+

2018 Ernie Els Cabernet Sauvignon Major Series

Juicy, ripe and dark red fruited, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Major Series offers power and elegance in the glass with notes of graphite and brown baking spices. Full-bodied and showing firm tannins, the palate displays notes of oak and black fruits, layers of complexity and brilliant extraction, ending with an impressively long, lingering finish. The wine aged for 17 months in 300-liter French oak barrels, 20% new. 30,000 bottles were made. Bravo! This powerhouse Cabernet will remain fresh and vibrant for years to come.

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92+

2018 Le Riche Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2018 Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon boasts a dominant nose of dark red and black fruit tones, resulting from a deeper core and firmer color structure compared to the Ocean Cabernet Sauvignon. This wine packs a punch with its big, juicy and spicy flavor, featuring black plums, and it has a tannic structure that amplifies as it lingers on the palate. Full-bodied and bold-natured, the wine glides to a brilliant and food-friendly finish. Bravo!

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92+

2018 Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Shiraz

Ripe and generously layered, the 2018 Family Reserve Shiraz is fresh and bold with juicy black fruit and dark red plum notions before hints of oak and spice overflow the nose. Full-bodied, the Shiraz is complex with juicy tannins that reveal layers of spice, fruit and oak, and it has a broad finish with a persistently spicy, peppery edge. This will remain food friendly for over a decade. After aging for 22 months in French oak barrels, 65% new, 9,100 bottles were produced.

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92+

2017 Glenelly Estate Estate Reserve Red

Fleshy, ripe and fruit-forward, the 2017 Estate Reserve Red offers gobs of dark red fruit essence that bursts from the glass with a generous frame and lively tension. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is still tight and needs additional time in the bottle to come around but will continue to gain complexity over the next decade. The wine ends with ripe plum compote and spiced cherry skin essence on the long, succulent finish. Bravo, it's a beauty!

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92+

2017 Bartinney Private Cellar Skyfall Cabernet Sauvignon

Fresh, ripe and picturesque, the 2017 Skyfall Cabernet Sauvignon is juicy with a frame of red and black fruit and plum notes over blackberry skin and healthy black cherries before offering up hints of wild brush and herbs on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the wine shows a firm tannic edge that will remain food-friendly for years to come. It will continue to age with grace and purity. Only 2,500 bottles were produced after the wine rested for a year and a half in French oak barrique, 80% new. Enjoy with food.

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92+

2017 Rust en Vrede Estate Red

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 30% Syrah and 10% Merlot, the 2017 Estate Red is still firm and expressive but shows the effects of the warmer vintage with ripe and juicy fruit aromas. Full-bodied and generous, the palate displays a balanced structure with flavors of plum compote and ripe blackberry skin. The red blend is a powerhouse that indeed possesses finesse, and it will continue drinking well for the next decade or more.

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92

2021 Miles Mossop Wines Chapter Three Chenin Blanc

Exuding a vibrant and zesty citrus nose, the 2021 Chapter Three Chenin Blanc is complemented by the delightful fusion of sweet apple skin and white spice. Medium-bodied and brilliantly textured, the succulent mouthfeel offers a slight prickle across the palate as energetic acidity relentlessly drives the spicy finish. Bravo! It is an absolutely delicious wine. Only 1,510 bottles were produced.

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92

2021 Jordan Wine Estate Nine Yards Chardonnay

The 2021 Nine Yards Chardonnay is broad, focused and luxurious and offers more complexity and weight than their regular range. It's a Chardonnay with excellent oak action and juicy, ripe green apples, sweet citrus and lemon pastry cream aromas. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is broadly textured with a delicious, leesy mouthfeel, and there's a bright and spicy finish. This delightful wine is sure to please New World Chardonnay drinkers. It rested for 10 months on the lees in 54% new French oak barrels. Just under 9,000 bottles were produced.

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92

2021 Zevenwacht Z Collection Syrah

Made with 70% whole cluster fermentation, the 2021 Z Collection Syrah offers picturesque red fruits with unmistakable notes of black peppercorn, hung meats and spicy and rocky essences. Medium-bodied, the palate is red-fruited with flavors of spiced cherry skin, red plum and potpourri notes before firm tannic grip moves across the mid-palate, offering hints of umami and iodine. The wine continues revealing its secrets over the long-lingering, spicy, food-friendly finish. Bring on the lamb; I'm going back for another glass. Bravo!

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92

2021 Reyneke Chenin Blanc

The nose of the 2021 Chenin Blanc is bright, fresh and zesty, offering underripe pineapple aromas with notions of yellow apple and sweet citrus. Medium-bodied, the wine shows a compact mouthfeel before uncoiling on the palate to reveal energetic acidity that beams with a kiss of phenolic bitterness and white florals. Gaining in complexity with time in the mouth, you get flavors of peach skin and white spice over the long, lingering, complex finish. There are 10,000 bottles of this fantastic, food-friendly, age-worthy Chenin Blanc.

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92

2021 Haskell Anvil Chardonnay

Only five barrels were made of the 2021 Anvil Chardonnay. The wine bursts with just-ripe citrus and yellow apple character before lemon pastry cream and elegant oak sway from the glass. Light to medium-bodied, the wine is balanced and shows energetic acidity with focus and finesse before concluding with a bright and succulent finish. Just under 1,900 bottles were produced after the wine rested in 40% new French oak. Bravo!

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92

2020 Oldenburg Vineyards Chenin Blanc

A brilliant wine, the 2020 Chenin Blanc bursts out of the glass with aromas of lemon pastry cream, sweet citrus and oak spice before lively and freshly opened white flowers waft from the glass with a delightful mineral essence. Medium-bodied, the Chenin Blanc is fresh, clean and texturally pleasing with a gorgeous, mouth-filling weight that unfolds across the mid-palate before leading to a long, winding, spicy finish. Only 18,400 bottles were produced of this fantastic wine. Bravo!

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92

2020 Babylonstoren Nebukadnesar

Bursting with fresh dark red fruit, the 2020 Nebukadnesar is firm, sturdy and structured with layers of blackberry, spiced plum, cherry compote and dusty earth before sweet vanilla and oak spices captivate the nose. Full-bodied, juicy and complex, the palate offers picturesque juicy black fruit flavors with a delightful lift from oak, turned earth and a soft, savory edge that melts into dark cherry and black raspberry tones. The wine continues to unfold and evolve over the long, lingering and spicy finish. This fruit-forward, red blend is sure to bring pleasure for years to come. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Mooiplaas Tabakland Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve

The 2020 Tabakland Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve appears opaque in the glass, but it's actually ripe and juicy with notes of sage, dark cherry and blackberry essence. The palate is full-bodied and expressive, revealing complex layers of firm tannins and succulent acidity. As you savor this Cabernet, you'll notice a delicate mineral tension over the delightfully long-lingering and spicy finish. The wine matured for 22 months in French oak. This is a limited 2,000-bottle production. You'll want to try this; it's truly delicious. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Le Riche Cabernet Sauvignon

Ripe, juicy and freshly layered, the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon offers delicate aromas of healthy red and black fruit aromas with notions of pencil shavings and graphite as soft oaky essences mingle with delightful red and purple flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is brilliant, fresh and juicy with succulent acidity before revealing fine-grained tannins that express a balanced structure. The wine continues to uncoil in the mouth, revealing a long lingering and mineral-laced finish. It spent 20 months in French oak barrels, 15% new, and will have no problem aging for a decade. 29,000 bottles were produced. This is fantastic juice!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Rustenberg Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon

Ripe and red-fruited, the 2020 Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon opens to a nose of lush, dark cherries and spiced plums with hints of dusty florals and notes of nutmeg. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers succulent acidity with balanced tannins before offering fresh juicy crème de cassis and black cherry skin flavors. The Cabernet ends with a lingering and spicy edge and will continue to drink well for the next nine to 10 years. 60,000 bottles were produced.

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2020 Hartenberg Estate The Eleanor Chardonnay

The 2020 The Eleanor Chardonnay is instantly pleasing, showing layers of complexity that release slowly from the glass with aromas of yellow apple, almond butter, sweet oak spices and a delightful dusty citrus blossom essence. Medium to full-bodied, the Chardonnay shows considerable weight and texture and beaming energetic acidity that drives the succulent, mouthwatering finish. Bravo, I'm taking another sip. The wine rested for just under a year in 45% new French oak barrels. 6,730 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Kanonkop Pinotage Stellenbosch

The 2020 Pinotage Stellenbosch exudes both breadth and structure with firm and intense black fruit aromas complemented by hints of oak that elevate the floral and oaky essences. It is highly expressive and boasts fresh blackberry and spice layers that tantalize the palate. Medium to full-bodied with complex layers of dark fruit and a bold, spicy profile, this beautiful Pinotage concludes with a refined and zesty finish with succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins. 72,000 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 16 months in French oak, 80% new. Bravo!

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2020 Rustenberg John X Merriman

Produced from 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 7% Malbec and 14% Petit Verdot, the 2020 John X Merriman offers a layered and seductive nose of black fruits with hints of oak and spice with dried herbs wafting from the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced with buttressing tannins and succulent acidity, offering flavors of black plum and dark cherry with hints of cassis and cinnamon. The wine glides to an elegant and complex finish that has me returning for a second and third sip. Bravo. This aged for 20 months in 35% new French oak barrels. 180,000 bottles were produced.

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2020 Clos Malverne Pinotage Reserve

Big and brooding with a plump and juicy core of black fruits, the 2020 Pinotage Reserve offers generous aromas of blackberry juice with spiced plum reduction and hints of juicy tobacco. Full-bodied, sweetly spiced and offering a kiss of residual sugar, the palate delivers a generous mouthfeel with hints of brown baking spices that frame the juicy, succulent tannins. The wine possesses power and a brilliant and generous finish that will continue to bulldoze for the next eight to 10 years. Only 10,000 bottles were produced. Bravo!

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2020 Boplaas Touriga Nacional Family Reserve

Bright and fresh, the 2020 Touriga Nacional Family Reserve is a barrel sample with no back label but offers a brilliant frame of succulent fruit that overflows with ripe red cherry, plum and wild raspberry. Full-bodied, the wine offers fine-grained tannins with succulent acidity and a fresh and vibrant mid-palate before lingering with a long, spicy finish. Bravo, this little beauty will have no problem aging until its 15th birthday.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Rainbow's End Family Reserve Red

A blend of 33% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc and 17% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Family Reserve Red is fresh and red fruited with crunchy cherry skin, soft herbs, delicate oak and spice tones. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fresh, succulent and juicy with layers of red plum skin, crème de cassis and redcurrant with delicate notes of sage and thyme plus lively and noticeable energetic acidity that races across the mid-palate. The elegant red blend glides to a graceful and long-lingering finish with fine-grained tannins. Just under 3,500 bottles were produced.

Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Reyneke Reserve White

Clean and expressive in the glass, the 2020 Reserve White opens to a fresh and mineral nose with citrus aromas before hints of oak spice and dusty flowers waft from the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the wine has fantastic texture before revealing a long, elegant finish with soft, creamy flavors of citrus skin and oak spice. It has yet to shed its baby fat, but it's already punching above its weight class.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Beyerskloof Diesel Pinotage

The 2019 Diesel Pinotage is big, ample and ripe with a juicy edge of plum reduction, blackberry juice and black cherries in syrup. Full-bodied, the wine is succulent and juicy, offering balanced acidity with an oaky essence and fine-grained tannins before gliding gracefully to a fresh, spicy and juicy lingering finish with persistent notes of dark chocolate and white pepper. This wine will make a convert out of any non-Pinotage drinker. The wine rested in new French oak for 17 months before being bottled. 11,000 bottles produced. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Tokara Director's Reserve Red

Composed of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Petit Verdot, 9% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, the 2019 Director's Reserve Red opens to a fresh, bold and layered nose of ripe, complex aromas of dark plum, blackberry juice and spiced cherry skin with sweet oak essences. Full-bodied, succulent acidity lifts the palate with fine-grained tannins before showing a delicate mineral tension with somersaulting flavors of spiced plums and blackberries. The wine continues to uncoil, concluding with a long, lingering, juicy finish that will remain food friendly for years. The wine aged for 22 months in French oak, 54% new. 36,360 bottles were produced.

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2019 Beyerskloof Pinotage Winemakers Reserve

Bold, juicy and extracted, the 2019 Pinotage Winemakers Reserve is fresh, vibrant and succulent, with generously layered expressions of roasted black fruit tones and sweet oak spices. Full-bodied, the wine possesses power and weight across the mid-palate, offering balanced tannins with generous flavors of mocha, plum reduction and black cherry before concluding with a firm, juicy, long and lingering finish. While it doesn't necessarily remind me of a South African wine but more of a wine from California, the Pinotage Winemakers Reserve is balanced and delivers a fruit-forward expression at 15.5% alcohol. 3,500 bottles were filled after the wine rested in 50% new oak for 16 months.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Neil Ellis Cabernet Sauvignon Stellenbosch

The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Stellenbosch is fresh and ripe with layers of blackberry and juicy plum aromas. It is full-bodied, offering notes of pencil shavings with a hint of graphite before swinging back to show juicy fruit flavors emanating in layers of complexity. The palate is balanced with a beam of energetic acidity that races to the long-lasting, juicy finish with persistent blackberry and dark cherry skin essences. Bravo! This is fantastic juice.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Reyneke Reserve Red

Made from 100% Syrah, the 2019 Reserve Red is dark and brooding with subtle spice notes and a dusty core of dark red and black fruit aromas. Medium-bodied, the palate offers delicate mineral tension with lifting tannic grip that will need some time to loosen and find its cadence. I do not doubt that with additional time in the bottle, the Reserve Red will continue to please for more than a decade.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Stark-Condé Three Pines Syrah

Beginning with a dark ruby core and soft magenta rim, 2019 Three Pines Syrah offers a dark-berried and floral aromatic array with firm yet juicy essences of black plums and spiced cherries with crushed black and red peppercorns. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is bright and food-friendly on the palate, with energetic acidity and fine-grained tannins that continue to uncoil and unwind before leading to a focused, brilliant finish. Bravo. This beauty has me daydreaming of lamb chops and grilled game meats.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Meerlust Rubicon

Composed of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with 19% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, the 2018 Rubicon offers a broad-shouldered expression with an Old World essence. The nose explodes with a wide variety of aromas, expressing a subtle Old World funk with an equally pleasing amount of New World vibrancy and freshness. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers dark fruit flavors with a fine beam of acidity while expressing a firm tannic edge that will loosen in time. The wine glides to a refined and complex finish that will continue to evolve gracefully for a decade. Unfortunately, there will not be a 2019 Rubicon.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Hartenberg Estate The Mackenzie Bordeaux Blend

The 2018 The Mackenzie Bordeaux Blend is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with 14% Petit Verdot, 7% Malbec and 7% Cabernet Franc. The red blend is firm, juicy and polished with a generous nose that offers layers of dark red and black fruit essence before elegant oak spice and dusty flowers sway out of the glass. Full-bodied and extracted, the wine unfolds on the palate to show impressive weight and texture yet is not overdone and remains balanced, gliding to a dark, juicy finish with a lingering tannic edge. This is a fantastic red blend. It rested for 20 months in 65% new French oak. 4,116 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Longridge Wine Estate Clos du Ciel

Starting with a juicy core of waxy apple and sweet citrus, the 2018 Clos du Ciel offers seductive floral notes with notions of soft baking spices and Meyer lemon blossom. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is clean, ripe and layered with delightful weight and structure before gliding to an elongated, rich finish that has me coming back for more. Only 2,500 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 12 months in French oak. Bravo! I want more.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Haskell Haskell II

Composed of 60% Shiraz and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2018 Haskell II is spicy with vibrant black fruit essences, showing power and precision. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is ripe, fruit-forward and succulent with driving acidity, succulent tannins and a spicy and dark-fruited essence. The wine glides to a succulent and food-friendly finish that will remain fresh and vibrant for another decade. The wine rested for just under two years in French oak, 35% new. Just over 2,800 bottles produced. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Keermont Vineyards Keermont Syrah

Bursting with aromas of spicy white pepper and savory herbs, the 2017 Keermont Syrah offers dark red fruit essences that sway with elegant red and purple flower notes. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is focused, precise and juicy with ripe and healthy picturesque flavors of spiced plum and dark cherry skin before gliding to a brilliantly long, food-friendly finish. It's a fantastic Syrah.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Rust en Vrede Single Vineyard Shiraz

Opening to an expressive and accessible nose that shows the warmer vintage, the 2017 Single Vineyard Shiraz displays a spicy and bold aroma with blackberry essence, spiced plums and hints of dusty flower petals. Full-bodied, the palate is generous and glossy with fine-grained tannins that lift the mid-palate before the wine reaches a brilliant, sweet-fruited finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 De Morgenzon Reserve Syrah

With broad shoulders and just-ripe dark fruit aromas, the 2017 Reserve Syrah is spicy with a mineral and dusty notion. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers flavors of black cherry and red and black peppercorns before showing a balanced structure with fine-grained tannins. This has a firm, gripping, structured finish and persistent flavors of black cherry skin. 5,800 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2016 Quoin Rock Red

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 19% Cabernet Franc and 15% Merlot, the 2016 Red offers a juicy and exuberant frame of black fruits that sway with a firm mineral essence and oak spices on the nose. Full-bodied and generous, the wine shows a firm tannic edge that will be better enjoyed when paired with flame-kissed chops and steaks from the grill. It's a fantastic and hedonistic wine meant for the "big red blend" lovers. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2016 Glenelly Estate Estate Reserve Red

Bold and fresh with ripe fruit aromas, the 2016 Estate Reserve Red offers breadth, depth and power with a firm backbone, with Syrah providing peppercorn spices and Cabernet Sauvignon expressing floral blackberry essences. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is juicy with a gripping, tannic edge and ends with a long-lingering, spicy, food-friendly finish. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2016 Neil Ellis Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek Valley

Tasted in a vertical sequence with the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 vintages, the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek Valley is characterized by its fresh and bright aromatics, with red fruit essences with elegant undertones of graphite and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, the wine has an energetic mid-palate that bursts with lively spicy sensations, followed by silky tannins that glide smoothly to a food-friendly finish. Overall, it is a fantastic Cabernet. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2016 Ernie Els Signature

The 2016 Signature blend is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, supported by 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Malbec. This maturing yet still vibrant red blend boasts a nose of ripe fruit and generous and succulent aromas of dusty dark red berries and fresh baking spices. Full-bodied and balanced, the palate is firm, structured and food-friendly, concluding with a spicy and lingering tannic edge. This red blend aged 20 months in 70% new French oak barrels. Only 13,723 bottles were made. Enjoy with food over the next five years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2015 De Toren Fusion V

Checking in on the 2015 Fusion V, the nose shows evolving and maturing in the glass. Displaying firm tannins, the medium to full-bodied wine has a freshness that releases on the palate, indicating that the wine is in its "cocoon stage" and, in 18 to 24 months, will emerge more mature and evolved with elegant tertiary expression, having shed its baby fat and fresh fruit flavors. Hold in the cellar until 2025, and drink through 2032.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2009 De Toren Fusion V

Along with the 2015, I also got to resample the 2009 Fusion V. I am delighted to amend the original score and drink dates from the previous reviewer. Impeccably fresh and firing on all cylinders, the red blend displays a brightness and shine while offering elegant tannins compounded by length and impeccable complexity. It is full-bodied on the palate, and while the label states 15% alcohol, this feels more like 14%. It has a balanced structure and glides to a long, fantastic finish. Decant for 30 minutes, and enjoy with food. Bravo!

- Neal Martin (Jul 31, 2023)

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2009 Boschendal Jean de Long Blanc de Blancs

The 2009 Jean de Long Blanc de Blancs is Boschendal's prestige cuvée. Initially showing persistent nutty and oxidative notes, the nose is open-knit and offers hints of marzipan and burnt lemon skin aromas. After letting the bottle chill down further for a few hours in the fridge, the nutty expressions began to blow off, and oddly, the wine appeared younger. Medium-bodied, the wine has decent acidity and will remain food-friendly for years to come. Serve well-chilled and enjoy with fresh seafood, cheeses and just about anything fried. 6,670 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2022 Raats Old Vine Chenin Blanc

Beginning with a medium straw color, the nose offers yellow apple skin and citrus notes before under-ripe peach and wax melon sway into focus of the nose of the 2022 Old Vine Chenin Blanc. Medium-bodied, the palate shows surprising weight and texture before unpacking a spicy and succulent kiss of phenolic bitterness with hints of lees with a soft nutty flavor of sautéed almonds. The wine concludes with a delightfully lingering, food-friendly finish. Enjoy it with fresh salads and shellfish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2021 Tempel Wines Kattemaai

Coming from vines planted in 1905, the 2021 Kattemaai is a Chenin Blanc and Sémillon blend. The nose offers notes of lemon yogurt with delicate white flowers and subtle spicy white tea aromas. Medium-bodied, the mouthfeel is refined, offering delightful mineral tension that possesses finesse and precision over the long-lingering finish. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2021 Carinus Family Vineyards Polkadraai Heuwels

Displaying a broad and more approachable frame in youth, the 2021 Polkadraai Heuwels opens to a dusty mineral essence with considerably more weight and gravitas compared to the Rooidraai Chenin Blanc. On the palate, the wine shows a kiss of phenolic bitterness with a food-friendly note of marzipan before offering a weighted mouthfeel with delicate mineral tension that will last for years. The wine has a soft, nutty finish and lingering mineral essence. It's a delightful, cerebral Chenin Blanc that has me coming back for a second sip.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2020 Rustenberg Chardonnay Five Soldiers

Starting with a bright and expressive nose, the 2020 Chardonnay Five Soldiers offers sweet oak essences with notions of lemon skin and Golden Delicious apples before a soft floral essence lifts the nose. Medium-bodied and with 13.5% alcohol, the palate is balanced and shows impeccable weight and texture before revealing sweet oak flavors that glide to a citrus-laced and apple-driven finish.

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91+

2020 Stellenzicht Thunderstone Chardonnay

Bursting with tropical fruits and sweet citrus aromas, the 2020 Thunderstone Chardonnay offers delightful expressions of yellow apples with citrus blossom essences. Medium-bodied, nimble and layered, the mouthfeel is zesty with energetic acidity, providing a food-friendly texture before lingering with a softly spicy finish with a persistent notion of underripe peach. Just under 14,400 bottles were produced of this lovely wine.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2020 Warwick Estate Three Cape Ladies

Composed of 60% Pinotage, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Three Cape Ladies starts fresh, ripe and succulent with a juicy, red-fruited nose with hints of sweet oak and dusty red flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the palate reveals a brilliant line of fresh acidity that runs through the mid-palate, offering notes of spiced red plum and dark cherries before fine-grained tannins firm up on the gum line. The wine has a lingering, subtly spiced, food-friendly finish and will be a perfect introduction for those scared to jump back in the Pinotage pool. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2020 Ken Forrester T Noble Late Harvest

Displaying a medium gold core, the 2020 T Noble Late Harvest offers classic notes of botrytis with hints of saffron, ginger and quince paste before succulent aromas of Bosc pear reduction, apricot and peach puree waft from the glass with notes of honeysuckle and jasmine. Light to medium-bodied but mouth-filling on the palate, the wine offers a kiss of volatility while displaying an impeccable balance of sugar and acidity without being cloyingly sweet. This delightful wine ends with lingering marmalade flavors and candied lemon over the long, spicy finish. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2020 Jordan Wine Estate The Long Fuse Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2020 The Long Fuse Cabernet Sauvignon offers red and black fruit aromas with a spicy and oaky essence, compounded by red flowers and black cherry. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is floral and expressive, offering layers of complexity, a food-friendly and focused mouthfeel on the mid-palate and a long, lingering, complex finish. Just over 21,000 bottles were produced after the wine rested for a year and a half in French oak. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2020 Clos Malverne Auret

A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Pinotage and 10% Merlot, the 2020 Auret is juicy and fresh with spicy notes of white pepper, red plum and dark cherry before hints of baked earth and dusty red flowers waft from the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is firm with a tannic edge that drives the expression with succulent acidity, showing layers of complexity before compressing slightly over the long, spicy finish. Enjoy with food.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2020 Vergelegen Chardonnay Reserve

The 2020 Chardonnay Reserve offers a broadly structured and layered nose with citrus, underripe pineapple and yellow apples. Medium-bodied, the palate provides magnificent weight with a zesty texture before showing a bright and spicy mouthfeel that ends with an elegant, acid-driven finish. After the wine rested eight months on the lees in 30% new French oak barrels, 12,300 bottles were produced.

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91+

2020 Tempel Wines Tydsaam Tempranillo

The 2020 Tydsaam Tempranillo is broad on the nose with juicy and spicy dark red fruit aromas, while a dusty essence of petrichor wafts from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fresh but still firm and will benefit from additional years in the bottle. All of the Tempranillo grapes were destemmed before resting in 40% new French oak.

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91+

2020 Vilafonté Seriously Old Dirt

The 2020 Seriously Old Dirt is composed mainly of Cabernet Sauvignon, with 8% Merlot, 4% Malbec and 2% Cabernet Franc. This delicious red blend boasts juicy flavors of red and black fruits, complemented by a lovely mix of brown baking spices and delicate flowers, compounded by a firm, mineral edge. Medium to full-bodied and sporting 13.5% alcohol on the label, the wine has a succulent palate with dark cherry flavors, followed by bright acidity that drives through the mid-palate with fine-grained tannins. The finish is fresh and picturesque, with lingering notes of just-ripe plum and soft oak tones. This delightful wine was aged for 18 months in French oak barrels. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2019 Lanzerac Commemorative Pinotage

Starting with a fresh and herbal nose, the 2019 Commemorative Pinotage bursts with dark purple flowers, spiced plum compote and dark cherry skin. Medium-bodied, the wine shows fantastic tension with a brilliant expression of tight tannins before the fruit profile shrinks to reveal more red fruit notions that need another year in the cellar to come around. This beauty will age like a champ; just be patient and then you can enjoy it until 2036. 2,200 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2019 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Reserve Cabernet Franc

Medium ruby in color, the 2019 Reserve Cabernet Franc opens to classic notes of sage, sweet red pepper and spicy cherry skin before delightful aromas of redcurrants and hints of red flowers and juicy tobacco waft from the nose. Medium-bodied, succulent and fresh, the palate is balanced with energetic acidity and fine-grained tannins that melt away, revealing picturesque spicy red fruit flavors that will please any Cabernet Franc lover. The wine glides to an elegant and delightfully pleasing finish. I'm going back for seconds. The wine rested in French oak for 17 months, about 30% new, and was part of a barrel selection. Only 5,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2019 Taaibosch Crescendo Red Blend

Mostly Cabernet Franc with 26% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2019 Crescendo Red Blend begins with an herbal and dusty red-fruited nose that offers graphite notes and soft brown baking spices. Medium-bodied, the wine is lively in the mouth, with balanced oak and fruit flavors that integrate seamlessly together, offering a balanced structure with fine-grained tannins and succulent acidity. The wine continues to evolve, offering up dusty and spicy essences before ending with a lingering, tannic edge. Give it one more year in the bottle and drink through the decade's end. It's nicely made and brings me back for another sip.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2019 Saxenburg Shiraz Select

Generous with aromas of spiced plum reduction and black pepper, the 2019 Shiraz Select displays a juicy and dark red-fruited nose with herbs and spices. Full-bodied and generously layered, this offers impressive weight and succulent red fruit flavors that mingle with a firm tannic edge before coming to a spicy and juicy finish. The wine spent a year in 60% new French oak. Just over 1,500 bottles were produced. Well done!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2019 Reyneke Cornerstone

Made from 75% Cabernet Franc and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2019 Cornerstone—also called “Capstone” in the American market—opens to classic dark red and black fruit tones with soft herbal essences. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is just-ripe with a juicy heart that offers an expressive and elegant balance of succulent tannins and energetic acidity that captures the Cabernet Franc-dominant expression with precision and finesse. The wine continues to uncoil as it glides to a delightfully food-friendly finish. Only 12,000 bottles were produced of this delightful wine. Bravo!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2019 De Toren Fusion V

Sporting a new label, the 2019 Fusion V is bold and expressive with a rich and round mouthfeel. Medium to full-bodied, the tannic structure has a refined, gripping sensation that will remain food-friendly. It ends with a long, spicy finish and elements of bitter dark chocolate. Give it one more year in the bottle, and enjoy it over the next 12 to 13 years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2019 Waterford Estate Grenache Noir

Fleshy and juicy with aromas of mineral-laced crunchy red fruit, the 2019 Grenache Noir opens to vibrant fresh flowers, potpourri spice and hints of smoke. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a fantastic balance of fine-grained tannins and succulent acidity, and there is a zesty and subtly spiced finish. This wine will remain food friendly for years. 5,700 bottles were produced.

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91+

2019 Stark-Condé Three Pines Cabernet Sauvignon

Starting with a tight and firm nose, the 2019 Three Pines Cabernet Sauvignon offers aromas of red fruit skin with notions of dusty plum, dark cherry and redcurrant. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is balanced but needs a bit more time in the bottle to come together. Be patient with this one; give it a year before opening and drink over the next decade. It's a gorgeous bottle that will certainly improve with age.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2019 Boschendal Black Angus

Composed of over half Syrah, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and 9% Malbec, the 2019 Black Angus is generous and layered with lush, ripe and vibrant fruit essence. Notes of blackberry juice, dusty black cherry and resinous purple flowers waft from the nose with delicate brown baking spices. Full-bodied, the wine is grippy on the palate with firm tannins and picturesque black and dark red fruit flavors of spiced plum reduction and crème de cassis before gliding to a long, spicy finish. This beautiful red blend was bottled in the Boschendal heritage bottle after resting for 14 months in 40% new French oak. Give it one more year in the bottle before opening.

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91+

2019 The Fledge & Co Hoeksteen Chenin Blanc

Beginning with aromas of white spice tea in sweet citrus, the 2019 Hoeksteen Chenin Blanc offers notes of golden delicious apple with Meyer lemon before offering dusty florals and hints of a nutty essence and lees. Medium-bodied, bright acidity bursts across the palate with a touch of phenolic bitterness as the wine uncoils, offering notes of vanilla and nutmeg. The wine glides to a spicy and food-friendly finish, with lasting impressions of lemon yogurt and oak. The wine fermented in neutral French oak barrels and was left on the lees for nine months. 1,128 bottles were produced. Give it a try.

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91+

2019 Stellenview Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

Opening with a firm nose with just-ripe dark cherry and plum skin aromas, the 2019 Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot offers oak essences with freshly opened flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is generous, with a tannic backbone and a bold structure that gives way to red fruit flavors that are subtly spiced and slightly tart before leading to a succulent finish. This blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot spent a year and a half in French oak barrels. 15,000 bottles were produced. Give it another year in the bottle to find its stride and allow the tannins to loosen.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2018 Le Riche Ocean Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2018 Ocean Cabernet Sauvignon possesses a fragrant nose of herbal and minty aromas with notes of eucalyptus and red cherries. The Cabernet is still tight and will benefit from another year or two in the bottle to fully develop. This medium to full-bodied wine has a harmonious balance of succulent acidity and firm tannins, making it a fantastic choice to pair with food over the decade. It finishes with soft and delicate red fruit flavors, leaving a pleasant herbal aftertaste behind. Give it time; your patience will be rewarded.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2018 Stellenzicht Arenite Syrah

Beginning with a dark ruby core and magenta rim, the 2018 Arenite Syrah begins with a focused and fresh nose of healthy, ripe dark blackberries with subtle spice tones. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is balanced with succulent acidity and buttressing tannins, and it will remain food friendly for years to come. Flavors of red and black peppercorn sway with notions of potpourri and spiced plum compote before ending with a juicy, spicy finish. Just over 6,500 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2017 Alto Estate Blend

The 2017 Estate Blend is made from 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and a splash of Petit Verdot. The red blend possesses finesse and power with impressive dusty dark fruit notes that sway with spice, resinous purple flowers and oak essence. Full-bodied, the palate is spicy, firm and food-friendly with succulent tannins that somersaults to a lively, focused finish. Only 3,500 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 18 months in 70% new French oak barrels.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2017 Meerlust Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon surpasses the 2017 Merlot in quality. It offers a bold and juicy core of fruit with a firm structure of earth and wood. Medium to full-bodied and layered with complexity, the palate offers succulent tannins with lively acidity before gliding to a delightfully lingering and subtly spiced finish. This aged for 18 months in 70% new oak. 29,000 bottles were produced.

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91+

2017 Babylonstoren Sprankel

The 2017 Sprankel is made from Chardonnay and offers a soft biscuity nose with notes of brioche and toasted almond before delightful aromas of lemon curd and green apple skin waft from the glass. Light to medium-bodied, the palate offers a lively and energetic mouthfeel with bright acidity that drives the mid-palate before concluding with a mouthwatering, food-friendly finish. This delightful little sparkler was aged on the lees for at least four years before disgorgement. It's wonderful.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91+

2015 Villiera Wines Monro Brut

This delightful sparkler is made from 61% Chardonnay, 30% Pinot Noir and 9% Pinot Meunier. The 2015 Monro Brut starts with a nutty and leesy nose that offers citrus and biscuity notes from five and a half years of extended lees contact. Light to medium-bodied, the mouthfeel is succulent with bright acidity, offering a delicate, frothy mousse before reaching a complex mineral-driven and citrus-laced finish. Well done!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Mooiplaas Chenin Blanc Bush Vines

The 2022 Chenin Blanc Bush Vines possesses considerably more weight than the Sauvignon Blanc of the same range and year. The nose offers aromas of fresh wax melon, golden delicious apple and sweet citrus elements with dusty citrus blossoms. Medium-bodied, the palate is delightfully textured, offering impeccable weight with complexity and precision. The wine will remain food-friendly for years to come. 20,000 bottles were produced without the use of new oak.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Babylonstoren Chardonnay

Medium straw in color, the 2022 Chardonnay is ripe, fresh and round on the nose with an instantly impressive array of citrus and pomaceous aromas of yellow apple skin, poached pear, lemon pastry cream and hints of vanilla and brown baking spices. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is bright and expressive, with a rich and phenolic mouthfeel that is elegant and finessed. You get subtle flavors of toasted almond and grilled lemon alongside notes of Asian pear before moving on to the delightfully lingering, spicy finish. Just under 53,000 bottles were made of this delightful Chardonnay.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Raats Old Vine Chenin Blanc

Beginning with a broader mouthfeel and lively fresh focus, the 2021 Old Vine Chenin Blanc offers notions of crisp yellow apple and sweet citrus with notes of melon skin and citrus blossom. Medium-bodied and with 13% alcohol, the palate is fresh, complex and food-friendly, and it has a spicy, lingering finish, showing fantastic weight and texture. The wine fermented in a mix of half French oak barrels and half stainless steel vessels. Only 7,320 bottles were filled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Warwick Estate Old Vine Chenin Blanc

Starting with a wax melon and yellow apple nose, the 2021 Old Vine Chenin Blanc offers soft notes of sweet citrus and marzipan. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a delightful texture with phenolic grip before gliding to a long, spicy finish. The wine aged in French oak barrels, 11% new. 3,200 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Kleine Zalze Vineyard Selection Chenin Blanc

The 2021 Vineyard Selection Chenin Blanc bursts with fresh layers of ripe, waxy yellow apples with a broad and expressive frame of lemon pastry cream and sweet citrus. Medium-bodied, this has delightful weight to the mouthfeel, which is food-friendly and expressive before showing a soft nutty essence and flavors of white melon. The wine glides to a delightfully lingering finish with energetic acidity. Made from free-run juice, 91,000 bottles were produced after the wine aged on the lees for seven months.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Knorhoek Chenin Blanc

Starting with the electric nose of sweet orange peel, waxy melon and yellow apple, the 2021 Chenin Blanc offers dusty florals on the nose. Medium-bodied, hints of underripe pineapple flavors, notions of peach skin and citrus blossom float across the mid-palate with succulent acidity and a ripe mouth feel. This gorgeous wine glides to a finessed finish with lingering spice notes and sweet citrus tones. After the wine rested in first and second-use French oak barrels, 20,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Keermont Vineyards White Blend Terrasse

Composed of 56% Chenin Blanc, 18% Sauvignon Blanc, 17% Chardonnay, 4% Roussanne, 4% Marsanne and 1% Viognier, the 2021 White Blend Terrasse offers a kiss of volatility with aromas of sweet citrus, lemon pith, underripe yellow apple and hints of almonds paste and wax melon. Medium to full-bodied, the wine has considerable weight and texture on the palate, showing a kiss of phenolic bitterness with food-friendly acidity before driving to a mineral-laced finish. Just under 11,500 bottles were made after the wine rested for a year on the lees in French oak. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 B Vintners Haarlem to Hope

The 2021 Haarlem to Hope is mostly Chenin Blanc with 30% Sémillon. Medium straw in color, the nose is brilliant with citrus blossoms bursting from the glass with notes of wax melon, Meyer lemon and yellow apple skin. The medium-bodied white blend offers a rich textural weight on the palate and glides to a spicy, lingering, citrus-laced finish. Just under 2,500 bottles were filled after the wine rested for a year in French oak barrels.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Dornier Moordenaarskloof Chenin Blanc

The 2021 Moordenaarskloof Chenin Blanc boasts aromas of candied lime, lemon curd and sweet citrus while lime meringue and lemon pastry cream waft from the glass. Medium-bodied, the wine has considerable weight and texture yet is still lively and fresh on the finish. It pops with flavor and is great on its own or paired with food. With only 7,500 bottles produced; you will want to try this.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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91

2021 Stark-Condé The Field Blend

Made from a blend of Roussanne, Chenin Blanc, Viognier and Verdelho, the 2021 The Field Blend is fresh, ripe and bright on the nose with a juicy and floral essence in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the white blend offers delicate mineral tension with a kiss of phenolic bitterness before exposing flavors of white peach, wax melon and citrus blossoms. The wine continues to reveal layers of complexity over the lingering and fresh finish. It's a delightful wine that will pair beautifully with a wide variety of dishes. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Warwick Estate Sauvignon Blanc Professor Black

The 2021 Sauvignon Blanc Professor Black begins with bright aromas of peach skin, lemongrass, candied lime and sweet citrus aromas. Medium to full-bodied, the palate shows a delightful mineral essence with sweet citrus flavors while displaying a focused and balanced structure before ending with a food-friendly finish. 21,400 bottles were produced without the use of oak. This wine shows really well this vintage. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Stellenview Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon

Generously layered with ripe, dark fruits, soft herbs and oak spices, the 2020 Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon is instantly impressive in the glass. Full-bodied and expressive, the palate is still tight, offering notions of pencil shavings with a firm structure before flavors of blackberry skin, spiced plum and turned earth mingle with notions of dried sage and purple flowers. The wine continues to evolve, revealing greater depth with time on the palate before ending with a firm, food-friendly finish that will benefit from one more year of additional bottle aging. Your patience will be rewarded. The wine aged for 18 months in French oak barrels. 20,000 bottles were produced.

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2020 Kaapzicht Rooiland Pinotage

Made from unirrigated bush vines planted in the mid-1990s, the 2020 Rooiland Pinotage is firm and juicy with hints of pencil lead and generous, polished dark fruit aromas. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is fresh and succulent, with firm tannins across the mid-palate, winding through the delightfully juicy and food-friendly finish. It's well-made and generously structured.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Reyneke Syrah

Bursting with bright red fruit tones and hints of basil, the 2020 Syrah offers notes of cherry skin with a soft mineral-laced expression. Medium-bodied, the palate provides a delicate tannic frame with succulent acidity that continues to uncoil and unwind across the mid-palate before gliding to a graceful, complex, ripe and spicy finish. The wine matured for 14 months in French oak. Just under 27,000 bottles were produced.

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2020 Eikendal Cabernet Sauvignon

A ripe and rich wine, the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon is layered with intense dark red cherry and blackberry aromas, complemented by hints of oak spice and delicate dusty red flowers. Full-bodied on the palate, it has a lively mouthfeel, delicate mineral tension and balanced structure, giving way to a juicy and spicy finish that leaves me daydreaming of flame-kissed chops. The wine aged for 12 months in 30% new Burgundian barrels. 12,000 bottles produced. Bravo, give it a try!

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2020 Rainbow's End Cabernet Franc

Unmistakably Cabernet Franc on the nose, the 2020 Cabernet Franc offers a beautiful balance of sour cherry and sweet red pepper with hints of sage, thyme and sofrito. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced, fresh and vibrant and will remain food friendly for years to come. The wine continues to evolve over the complex and delightfully lingering finish that will please Cabernet Franc lovers around the globe. It's a delightful and sincere expression of Cab Franc that retains its peppery essence. It will be perfect with kimchi, spiced meat pie and blue cheeses. Please don't be scared; give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Raats Red Jasper

Opening to a bold and layered nose, the 2020 Red Jasper offers juicy dark red and black fruit essences that waft from the glass with subtle aromas of pencil shavings and roasted sweet red pepper. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is juicy and succulent with a ripe mouthfeel, succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins before ending with a firm but delightfully lingering and spicy finish. After the wine rested for 16 months in used French oak barrels, 16,000 bottles were produced.

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2020 Ken Forrester The FMC

Starting with green apple and yellow citrus notes, the 2020 The FMC offers notions of dusty citrus blossom, mandarin orange and yellow flowers. Medium-bodied, the palate is fresh and floral with notes of orange oil before a fine mineral tension takes hold of the mid-palate. The wine continues to evolve over the elongated finish, ending with persistent flavors of lemon pastry cream. It's delightful and fresh. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Botanica Wines Arboretum

The 2020 Arboretum is a Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc blend with a clean, tight, expressive nose with dark red fruits and hints of pencil shavings and graphite. Medium to full-bodied, the mouthfeel is firm and food-friendly and will pair beautifully with fire-kissed meats on the grill. This delightful red blend will remain fresh for years to come. Just under 4,700 bottles were filled after the wine rested for 17 months in new wood. Give it a try!

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2020 Saxenburg Private Collection Shiraz

Made with 15% whole-cluster Syrah grapes, the 2020 Private Collection Shiraz bursts to life with a brilliant and bright nose offering spicy and juicy aromas of black raspberry and red peppercorn. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced with delightful weight and offers a fresh and floral essence that drives the finish. This delightfully food-friendly Shiraz will continue to drink fantastically over the next decade. The wine aged for 12 months in 20% new French oak barrels. Just under 18,000 bottles were produced.

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2020 Mulderbosch Single Vineyard Chenin Blanc Block W

Medium straw-colored, the 2020 Single Vineyard Chenin Blanc Block W is waxy with soft nutty tones that hop out of the glass with notions of wax melon and citrus blossom. Medium-bodied and with juicy acidity, the palate is fresh, vibrant and food-friendly before winding down to a delightful, cerebral finish that brings me back for another sip. Bravo! The wine spent 10 months in foudre. 3,000 bottles were produced.

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2019 De Toren The Black Lion

The 2019 The Black Lion explodes from the glass with juicy and broad layers, displaying a Syrah with expressive complexity and concentration with a generous style, inflected with oak and resinous purple flowers. Full-bodied, the wine displays a fine mineral tension with brown baking spices on the palate before drawing to a close over a firm, tannic edge with a drying finish. Give it one more year in the cellar, and enjoy with wild game and flame-kissed meats.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Keermont Vineyards Riverside Chenin Blanc

Displaying a broad and expressive nose, the 2019 Riverside Chenin Blanc begins with hints of oak before showing aromas of wax melon essence, soft notes of toasted almonds and sautéed lemon skin. Medium-bodied but with fantastic weight, the wine offers succulent acidity on the palate and a citrus-driven, mineral-laced finish. Only 3,700 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 12 months on the lees in a mix of new and used French oak barrels. Bravo!

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2019 Thelema Mountain Vineyards Chardonnay

Opening to a reductive nose with oak aromas, the 2019 Chardonnay offers notes of sweet citrus, green and yellow apples and soft notes of toasted almonds. Medium-bodied, the wine uncoils on the palate, showing a delightfully pleasing texture that is food friendly, nimble and lively with acidity, offering flavors of popcorn kernel before gliding to a crisp, lingering, subtly-spiced finish. Just under 14,000 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 10 months in 35% new French oak barrels. Nicely done!

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2019 Longridge Wine Estate Ekliptika

Composed of a blend of 39% Cabernet Franc, 21% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Petit Verdot, the 2019 Ekliptika is ripe, rich and round with layers of oak and spice before sweet red fruit aromas waft from the glass. Medium-bodied, the palate unfolds to reveal additional layers of complexity and a balanced structure before coming to a delightfully lingering, subtly spiced finish. Only 1,250 bottles were filled after the wine rested for three years in French oak barrels.

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2019 Knorhoek Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon is ripe, fresh and red fruited with a classic herbal lift of soft sage notes that mingle with elegant oak spice. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a lifting tannic structure that lingers through the delightful and spicy finish. This will remain food-friendly for the next decade or so. 10,000 bottles were produced.

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2019 Simonsig Redhill Pinotage

Lush, round and juicy, the 2019 Redhill Pinotage begins with spicy red fruits before layers of blackberry, raspberry compote and cedar spice join in with subtle notes of leather and purple flowers. Medium to full-bodied, this is focused, fresh and delightful on the palate, offering fine-grained tannins with energetic acidity before notions of dusty red cherry merge with subtle notes of potpourri and smoke. The wine continues to unwind and unpack, revealing additional complexities with moments on the palate before the long, lingering and food-friendly finish. It looks like South African Pinotage has finally found its stride.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Mulderbosch Faithful Hound

Composed of 29% Cabernet Franc, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 12% Malbec and 12% Petit Verdot, the 2019 Faithful Hound offers a ripe, succulent and healthy frame of red fruits that burst out of the glass. Medium-bodied, the palate provides complexity and elegance with a balanced structure, offering subtle notes of pencil shavings, oak spice and herbs that lift the mid-palate. The wine continues to uncoil in the mouth as it glides to a graceful and lingering finish. It will continue drinking well for years to come. The wine rested 18 months in French oak barriques, 30% new. 108,000 bottles were produced. Give it a try.

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2019 Beyerskloof Reserve Pinotage

The 2019 Reserve Pinotage is plummy, spicy and fresh, with ripe, dark cherries and hints of oak spice. Medium to full-bodied, the Pinotage is succulent with balanced acidity and fine-grained tannins before concluding with a fresh, food-friendly finish. The wine aged for 14 months in 15% new French oak. 38,500 bottles produced.

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2019 Stark-Condé Stellenbosch Syrah

The 2019 Stellenbosch Syrah pops out of the glass with fresh and spicy notes of black pepper and dusty red fruits with bright florals. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is mineral-driven with a firm line of red plum and dark cherry skin flavors before a fresh beam of acidity bursts across from the mid-palate, ending with a gorgeous and refined finish. Bravo!

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2018 Idiom Rodanico

The 2018 Rodanico is mainly Shiraz with 23% Mourvèdre and 3% Viognier. The wine is juicy on the nose with a brilliant floral lift and aromas of succulent red plums, sweet spice, tobacco and dusty red and purple flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is ripe, supple and delightfully tannic, showing a balanced structure with succulent dark plum, black pepper notes and hints of savory herbs that sway over the elongated finish. The wine rested in a mix of new and used American and French oak barrels. 5,300 bottles produced.

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2018 Hartenberg Estate The Stork

Dense and chewy, the 2018 The Stork is firm, extracted and inky with aromas of resinous purple flowers and blackberry skin notions. Full-bodied, the wine is juicy, succulent and tannic, with a long-lingering, juicy and ripe finish. Give it another year in the bottle, and enjoy this Syrah with food. It rested for 20 months in 80% new French oak. Decant for at least 30 minutes before enjoying. Just over 3,600 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 De Morgenzon Reserve Chenin Blanc

The nose of the 2018 Reserve Chenin Blanc is fine and subdued with a lively fruit profile of wax melon, yellow apple, sweet citrus and a touch of spiced white tea and lees. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is precise and textured with a delicate mineral essence and a kiss of phenolic bitterness that drives the mid-palate. The wine continues to evolve and uncoil as it offers a delightful oaky element with a food-friendly, creamy finish. 20,000 bottles were produced. Nicely done!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Neil Ellis Amica Sauvignon Blanc

Initially beginning slightly reductive on the nose, the 2018 Amica Sauvignon Blanc offers notes of key lime pie with citrus blossoms and a soft dusty essence. Medium-bodied, the wine is succulent, with fine mineral tension and energetic acidity that beams through the bright, spicy and lingering finish. Overall, it's a lovely wine that has me daydreaming about fresh seafood and salads. Well done!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 De Morgenzon Maestro White

Made from 38% Roussanne, 26% Chenin Blanc, 22% Grenache Blanc, 8% Viognier and 6% Marsanne, the 2018 Maestro White delivers soft oak essences on the nose with a delightful balance and lift from sweet citrus, yellow apples and citrus blossoms. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is textural with subtle oak tones and a delightful mineral tension. It ends with a food-friendly finish with a kiss of phenolic bitterness. The wine rested for six to eight months on the lees in a mix of about 15% new French oak. 6,250 bottles produced.

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2017 Longridge Wine Estate Misterie

The 2017 Misterie bursts with delightful aromas of sweet oak and crunchy red fruit that's both ripe and glossy. Its medium to full-bodied texture glides smoothly across the palate, with ripe fruit flavors and brown baking spices that are well-balanced and show finesse. As the wine sits on the palate, it continues to reveal additional layers of complexity, ending with a generously long finish. Only 1,500 bottles were made of this juicy Merlot, which was aged for 24 months in 80% new oak.

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2017 Neil Ellis Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek Valley

Tasted in a vertical sequence, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek Valley offers a more generous core with broad, juicy fruit tones with hints of mint and wilted flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is fleshy and generous on the palate with firm and juicy fruit layers before offering a gripping tannic structure. The wine slowly loosens its grip on the palate before reaching its firm, structured finish. This will be better with food.

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91

2015 Vergelegen V

The 2015 V is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot. The nose is ripe, generous and firm with inky essences that lift from the glass with oak spice and graphite aromas. Full-bodied, the palate is firm, showing tight tannins that will benefit from being paired with food. The wine ends with a spicy, mineral-driven, tannic edge. The wine spent 18 months in all-new French oak and then aged for an additional 48 months in bottle before release. 4,000 bottles were produced. Nicely done.

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91

2013 Reyneke Chenin Blanc

Checking back in on the 2013 Chenin Blanc, the nose offers a nutty expression of marzipan with dusty yellow apple. Medium-bodied, the mouthfeel delivers surprising texture and weight before beaming with delicate acidity that has allowed this wine to age well for a decade, with still a few more years of life left. Enjoy well chilled and decant for 20 minutes before consuming.

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91?

2015 Neil Ellis Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek Valley

Tasted as a vertical sequence of 2015 through 2018, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek Valley is currently closed down, showing a shy and subdued nose. Full-bodied and having shed its baby fat, the Cabernet shows some earthy flavors that are beginning to grow and amplify. It currently has a short finish. This should be held in the cellar until 2024 before opening, but it will be best before 2028. The warm, generous vintage has made its mark on the wine. Decanting is recommended.

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90+

2022 Jordan Wine Estate Assyrtiko

The 2022 Assyrtiko is bright, lively and expressive, with electric citrus tones exploding from the glass with underripe peach, green apple and candied lime notes. Medium-bodied on the palate, with energetic acidity, the wine beams through the finish with a delightfully surprising weight and lively texture. This will remain food friendly for the next five years. Bravo!

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90+

2021 Roodekrantz Wines Donkermaan Chenin Blanc

The 2021 Donkermaan Chenin Blanc has a nose of wax melon, yellow apples and sweet citrus with a creamy essence. On the palate, it is medium to full-bodied with a delightful texture and weight that doesn't overpower the complexity and roundness of the wine. Succulent acidity balances the mouthfeel as the wine continues to uncoil, showing its complexities before ending with a white spiced and citrus-laced finish. Only 1,600 bottles were produced after the wine rested for nine months in older French oak barrels.

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90+

2021 Kaapzicht Kliprug Chenin Blanc

The 2021 Kliprug Chenin Blanc is generous and refined, bursting with a lively, broad and waxy nose. Medium to full-bodied, the Chenin Blanc shows delightful weight and texture with refreshing and energetic acidity before ending with a fine, textural finish that will remain food-friendly for six to seven years. Give it a try.

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90+

2021 Zevenwacht Z Collection Chenin Blanc

Popping out of the glass with expressive and layered aromas of wax melon and green and yellow apples with underripe peach, the 2021 Z Collection Chenin Blanc displays notes of Meyer lemon and citrus blossom. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers juicy acidity with spicy mineral tension before offering up a soft prickle of phenolic bitterness over the food-friendly finish that has me daydreaming of fresh fish and seafood. Nicely done!

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90+

2020 Botanica Wines Big Flower Cabernet Franc

Truth in advertising, the 2020 Big Flower Cabernet Franc is brilliant in the glass with notes of classic cassis, aromas of herbs and spice, a delightfully fresh red-fruited essence and dusty red flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is precise, thoughtful and fresh on the palate with a purity of expression and soft herbal focus that sways with red cherry flavors, succulent red plum skin and vibrant acidity. The wine lingers with elements of bitter black tea and a delightful tannic edge over a spicy finish. This simple yet elegant wine will surely please Cabernet Franc drinkers around the globe. Only 6,000 bottles were made.

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90+

2020 Waterford Estate Chenin Blanc

Broad, focused and expressive in the glass, the 2020 Chenin Blanc offers aromas of lemon panna cotta, wax melon and yellow apple purée. Medium-bodied, succulent acidity bursts across the palate with hints of toasted almonds and lemon essence before revealing a kiss of residual sugar and phenolic bitterness over the fresh, lingering finish. No oak was used in this production of 6,300 bottles.

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90+

2020 Aaldering Florence Red Blend

A blend of 64% Pinotage, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot, the 2020 Florence Red Blend displays a deep ruby core and offers a focused and clean nose that expresses a ripe, red-fruited purity. Approachable and expressive with a fine juicy mid-palate with flavors of dark cherry and plum, the medium to full-bodied wine is focused, finessed and elegant. The wine glides to a delightfully lingering finish with persistent notions of spiced red and black fruit compote, ending with succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins. It's a lovely wine that aged for approximately 20 months in French oak barrels. 15,000 bottles were produced.

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90+

2020 Cirrus Pinot Noir

Produced with about 20% whole clusters, the 2020 Pinot Noir opens with a nose of crunchy red fruit, potpourri and red cherry aromas. Medium-bodied, ripe and with hints of raspberry and pomegranate, the palate offers a crystalline freshness with balanced tannins and a delightfully nimble mouthfeel before ending with a fine, mineral-laced finish. Give it a try.

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90+

2019 Lanzerac Le General

The 2019 Le General is 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot with 9% each of Malbec and Petit Verdot. The nose is bold, oak-driven and fresh, offering luxurious layers of dark red and black fruit tones, dusty plum, spiced cherry skin and notions of graphite and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is balanced with succulent acidity before offering delightful elements of brown baking spices that continue to the finish. The wine aged for 20 months in first and second-use French oak barrels. 4,500 bottles were filled. Bravo!

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90+

2019 Neil Ellis Amica Sauvignon Blanc

Bursting with bright citrus notes, the 2019 Amica Sauvignon Blanc offers a lively and citrus expression without having undergone malolactic fermentation. Medium-bodied, the palate is lively with fresh and vibrant citrus flavors that excite the mid-palate, along with fine mineral tension, before reaching a zesty, lingering, mineral-laced finish. 5,800 bottles were produced after the wine matured for nine months in 20% new French oak.

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90+

2019 Rust en Vrede Estate Syrah

Beginning with a deep ruby core, the 2019 Estate Syrah opens to aromas of black fruits with a subtle mineral essence that mingles with dusty florals and spicy undertones. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is still tight and will remain food-friendly for years to come. It continues with the firm mineral tension, showing succulent tannins that melt away to reveal a juicy and spicy finish. Enjoy with food. I can see this getting better with a few more years of bottle age.

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90+

2019 Rust en Vrede Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Starting with a dark-fruited nose, the 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon offers a fresh mineral essence with a soft herbal edge, red cherry skin, and plum aromas. Full-bodied, the palate provides underlying mineral tension before displaying a firm tannic edge that will benefit from food. The wine unwinds and uncoils to show a balanced structure before ending with a firm, dark-fruited finish.

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90+

2019 Tokara Reserve Collection Cabernet Sauvignon

Made with 10% Petit Verdot, the 2019 Reserve Collection Cabernet Sauvignon opens to a firm and juicy nose with layers of red and black fruit that unwinds in the glass to expose delicate aromas of red flowers, sweet oak essences and hints of herbs. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a precise and expressive mouthfeel with layers of juicy red fruit before displaying a balanced structure with fine-grained tannins. Give it one more year in the bottle and enjoy it with food. The wine aged for 22 months in French oak barrels, 48% first use. 15,894 bottles were produced.

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90+

2019 Stark-Condé Cabernet Sauvignon

Starting with a dusty and red-fruited nose, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon has a delicate frame of approachable juicy red fruit aromas. This wine can be enjoyed young, but it also possesses the ability to age gracefully. Medium to full-bodied, it is firm on the palate with a delightfully succulent and tannic edge that will remain food-friendly for years to come. Well done.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90+

2018 Simonsig Tiara

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 13% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Malbec, the 2018 Tiara begins with a black-fruited nose of dark red fruit essences layered with notions of oak spice and soft herbs on top. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is still tight, showing an age-worthy red blend with freshness and ripeness at its core, offering a firm but supporting tannic lift before ending with a long, juicy finish. The wine aged in all-new French oak barrels. 18,000 bottles were produced. I can see this vintage earning its "+" in a few years.

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90+

2018 Simonsig Labyrinth Cabernet Sauvignon

Beginning with a dark ruby core, the 2018 Labyrinth Cabernet Sauvignon offers layers of dark plum, black cherry and soft sweet herbs with hints of oak on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, with succulent acidity on the mid-palate, this has a delicate mineral tension before notions of pencil shavings, dusty tannins and juicy red fruit skin express over the herbal and long, lingering finish. Bravo. This overdelivers for the price.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90+

2018 Stellenzicht Tristone Cabernet Sauvignon

Opening with a petite frame for a Cabernet, the 2018 Tristone Cabernet Sauvignon offers a red-fruited core of ripe cherries and dusty plums. Medium to full-bodied, the palate provides succulent tannins that should loosen with some bottle age, and there's a graceful and spicy finish. Give it another year in the bottle and drink it until the decade's end. 6,810 bottles were produced. Enjoy with food.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Meerlust Meerlust Red

Sadly, there is no Rubicon in 2019, as all the parts were declassified. Thankfully, the 2019 Meerlust Red was blended from 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The nose is juicy and ripe with fresh red fruit tones, turned earth and soft brown baking spices before showing delightfully dusty flowers that lift the bouquet. Medium to full-bodied, this is rich, precise and focused, offering a balanced structure with a firm tannic edge, while flavors of red cherry skin and spiced plums sway over the long, lingering and spicy finish. The wine aged in 46% new French oak for 17 months. 180,000 bottles were produced. This may be the best bottling of Meerlust Red yet!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2018 Idiom Cape Blend

The 2018 Cape Blend is about half Pinotage with 24% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 5% Shiraz. The red blend is juicy and fresh with ripe, dark red cherries and blackberry essence and hints of resinous purple flowers, spice and black raspberry. Full-bodied, the wine has a balanced frame, firm structure, fine-grained tannins and succulent acidity on the palate and ends with a balanced and focused finish. The wine rested for just under a year in a mix of French and American oak barrels, 45% new. 6,000 bottles produced.

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90+

2017 Waterford Estate Kevin Arnold Shiraz

Open-knit and extracted with firm, juicy and spicy aromas, the 2017 Kevin Arnold Shiraz displays red and black peppercorn notes with blackberry juice. Full-bodied, this has a rich, round expression that shows layers of volume before ending with a firm tannic edge over the lingering, spicy finish. 45,000 bottles were produced.

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90

2022 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Chenin Blanc

Fresh, precise and clean, the 2022 Chenin Blanc starts with a slightly subdued nose with notes of wax melon, sweet citrus and yellow apple skin. After a moment of swirling the glass, the wine reveals soft and elegant floral notes that waft from the glass. Medium-bodied, this balanced and floral Chenin Blanc offers succulent acidity and a food-friendly finish. This is an excellent buy at a great price. Don't let the screw cap scare you away.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2022 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc

Fresh, vibrant and expressive in the glass, the 2022 Sauvignon Blanc bursts with notes of citrus blossom, honeysuckle and jasmine before aromas of sweet Meyer lemon and Mandarin orange sway out of the glass with a kiss of pineapple. Medium-bodied, the palate is precise, focused and fresh, offering a balanced structure with juicy acidity before reaching a citrus-laced finish. Give this delightful little sipper a try. 25,000 bottles produced.

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90

2022 Raats Original Chenin Blanc

Fresh, clean, vibrant and expressive, the 2022 Original Chenin Blanc expresses classic notes of peach and pineapple with apple skin, citrus blossom and candied lime. Medium-bodied, fresh and balanced, this delightful wine comes with a nimble and compact frame and an energetic and lively finish. It will perform beautifully as an aperitif.

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90

2021 Villiera Wines Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc

Opening to grassy and stemmy notes, the 2021 Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc offers soft toasty notes with aromas of green apples and sautéed almonds in the glass. Medium-bodied, the palate offers bright acidity with a smooth leesy texture and a kiss of phenolic bitterness. This has a bright, succulent finish with a touch of reduction. 7,800 bottles were produced after the wine rested for eight months in 33% new French oak, while 15% of the wine went through malolactic fermentation. Give it a try.

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2021 Eikendal Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot is incredibly dark and opaque in the glass, with an inky core of rich fruit and a hint of bittersweet dark chocolate. The wine is full-bodied, focused and concentrated on the palate, offering layers of plum skin, blackberry compote and dusty spices that drive its long and lingering finish. Give it another year in the bottle to allow the tannins to come together and round out the structure of the wine. This aged for 12 months in used barrels. Only 7,000 bottles were produced. Give it a try.

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2021 Raats Original Chenin Blanc

The 2021 Original Chenin Blanc opens to a fresh and expressive nose with apple skin, white flowers, mandarin orange peel and peach skin with elegant white and yellow flowers. Medium-bodied, waxy and offering a kiss of phenolic bitterness, the palate is fresh and vibrant and offers a lingering spicy finish. This will remain food-friendly for a few more years. Made without oak, 32,228 bottles were produced after the wine rested for six months on the lees in stainless steel.

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90

2021 Ken Forrester Old Vine Reserve Chenin Blanc

Starting with the aromas of wax melon, the 2021 Old Vine Reserve Chenin Blanc offers a sweet frame of citrus with soft notes of dusty flowers and lees. Medium to full-bodied, the wine shows underripe peach and pineapple flavors before bursting with energetic acidity. It offers fresh citrus blossoms, a dusty mineral essence and a kiss of phenolic bitterness across the mid-palate. The wine concludes with a waxy and leesy finish with soft marzipan notes and charred lemon skin. It's delightfully pleasing and food friendly. Give it a try.

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90

2021 Zevenwacht 360 Sauvignon Blanc

Made with 13% Sémillon, the 2021 360 Sauvignon Blanc begins with a medium straw core with herbal aromas of gooseberry, nettles and underripe peach before notes of green apple and lime candies waft from the glass. Medium-bodied and with bright acidity, the palate provides a lively mouthfeel with a crisp, food-friendly finish. The wine was barrel fermented and left on the lees for nine months. 1,296 bottles were produced.

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90

2021 Rustenberg Chardonnay

Starting with a fresh and lively nose with oaky essence and balanced sweet citrus tones, the 2021 Chardonnay offers elegant yellow apple and citrus blossom aromas. Medium-bodied, the palate is fresh, clean and lively, offering a balanced structure with succulent acidity before ending with a clean and vibrant finish. Don't let the screw cap scare you away. This delightful Chardonnay rested 10 months on the lees, spending eight months in 25% new French oak. Give it a try.

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90

2021 De Kleine Heimwee

Opening to a soft note of reduction and red plum essence, the 2021 Heimwee is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and expresses hints of pencil shavings, graphite and cherry skin. Medium-bodied and with a firm tannic grip that will show better with additional years in the bottle, the Cabernet offers a balanced structure with succulent acidity and subtle nuances of herbs and black raspberry flavors. This delightfully food-friendly wine has a juicy, focused finish. Only 2,400 bottles were made.

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2021 Stark-Condé Round Mountain Sauvignon Blanc

The nose of the 2021 Round Mountain Sauvignon Blanc is fresh and citrus-driven with aromas of lemon zest and lime skin before hints of peach and under-ripe pineapple emanate from the glass. Fermented in mainly older French oak barrels, the wine is medium-bodied and doesn't show the grassy notes typically associated with the varietal. However, the wine possesses electric acidity and will remain food-friendly for a few more years, ending fresh and succulent. I'm going back for another sip.

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90

2021 Waterkloof Estate Waterkloof Chenin Blanc

Starting with a focused and waxy nose, the 2021 Waterkloof Chenin Blanc displays aromas of fresh yellow apples, sweet citrus, white flowers and wax melon in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, this offers a delightfully textured palate with surprising weight that is supported by succulent acidity and a balanced kiss of phenolic bitterness and residual sugar. The wine continues to uncoil as it moves to a fresh, lively, mineral-laced finish. After it spent 10 months in 600-liter French oak barrels, 4,400 bottles were filled.

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2021 Reyneke Sauvignon Blanc

The 2021 Sauvignon Blanc starts with a lemony and softly yeasty nose with bright citrus, showing fantastic focus and precision before offering a fine floral and mineral essence. Medium-bodied, the wine possesses a bright mouthfeel with energetic acidity before offering soft phenolic grip and a fine, mineral-laced citrusy finish. The wine aged for eight months on the lees in seasoned French oak barrels. 12,000 bottles were produced.

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90

2021 Kaapzicht Skraalhans Pinotage

Starting with a floral and fresh nose, the 2021 Skraalhans Pinotage is more red-fruited with notes of spiced plum and dark cherry. Medium-bodied and with 13% alcohol, the palate is fresh, succulent and balanced with fine-grained tannins before offering a spicy, lingering finish. It's juicy and crushable. Give it a try.

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90

2021 Aaldering Chardonnay

The 2021 Chardonnay is classic with notes of sweet oak, apples, lemons and white peach with succulent citrus blossoms. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fresh and balanced while offering a delightful texture and weight before ending with a clean, round finish. This Chardonnay was fermented half in stainless steel tank and half in French oak—30% new wood. Give it a try. 6,500 bottles produced.

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90

2021 B Vintners Lone Wolf Cinsault

Starting with a classic, fresh and red-fruited nose, the 2021 Lone Wolf Cinsault is juicy and floral in the glass. Medium-bodied, the palate offers flavors of red cherry skin with expressive potpourri notes that glide with elegance and a soft tannic edge before concluding with a juicy, food-friendly finish. Give it a try.

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90

2021 Jordan Wine Estate Barrel Fermented Chardonnay

The 2021 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay is buttery, oaky and ripe with notes of stone fruit and citrus and notes of underripe pineapple, yellow apple and lemon pastry cream that waft from the glass. Medium-bodied and with 13% alcohol, the wine is focused, fresh and clean on the palate and lingers long with a food-friendly finish. The wine rested on the lees in French oak barrels for nine months, 23% new. Just under 28,000 bottles were produced. Give it a try.

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90

2021 Jordan Wine Estate Inspector Péringuey Chenin Blanc

Starting with the soft, oaky essence in the glass, the 2021 Inspector Péringuey Chenin Blanc offers lemony and wax melon aromas with notions of sweet pear and citrus blossom. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is balanced, focused and textured on the palate, with a kiss of phenolic bitterness and a soft, spicy and leesy texture. This spent seven months on the lees and aged in second and third-use Burgundian barrels. Just over 25,000 bottles produced.

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2021 Taaibosch Le Chant Blanc

Made from 100% Chenin Blanc, the 2021 Le Chant Blanc offers sweet citrus and apple aromas with delightfully floral mineral essences that lift from the glass as hints of jasmine and orange blossoms entice the nose. Medium-bodied, the palate provides flavors of lemon yogurt with spiced white tea before expressing delicate mineral tension as the wine comes to a subtly spiced, citrus-laced finish with a lingering kiss of phenolic bitterness. Give it a try.

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90

2020 Oldenburg Vineyards Merlot

Bursting with a red-fruited and plummy nose, the 2020 Merlot offers bright cherry essences with a soft aroma of freshly opened red flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced with juicy acidity and lifting tannins before offering a food-friendly and lingering finish. The wine aged for 18 months in French oak barrels, 36% new. Only 5,805 bottles were produced.

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90

2020 Raats Dolomite Cabernet Franc

The 2020 Dolomite Cabernet Franc is classic with fresh, dark cherries, herbal notes and elegant earth tones of baked clay. Medium-bodied, the palate offers a soft herbal edge with a food-friendly notion before showing bright acidity with a lingering hint of smoke on the finish. After resting 14 months in French oak barrels, none new, 17,269 bottles were produced. It's an honest wine at a great price that will please Cabernet Franc lovers around the globe.

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90

2020 Bellingham Wines Homestead Pinotage

Clean and expressive with just-ripe black fruit aromas, the 2020 Homestead Pinotage is impressive in the glass with hints of coffee, blackberry juice and black raspberry. Medium to full-bodied, the wine flavors shift to show more red-fruit expressions, while succulent acidity and a soft tannic edge glide across the mid-palate before lingering with hints of smoke and spice over the food-friendly finish. This delightful Pinotage has me craving grilled meats and flame-kissed chops.

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90

2020 Kaapzicht Bottelary Hills Estate Blend

Made from 35% Shiraz, 32% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec and 1% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Bottelary Hills Estate Blend opens to firm red fruit aromas with a juicy and slightly dusty core. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is firm with a tannic edge, punching above its weight class, and it ends with a lingering, spicy finish. It's a delightful wine that spent 16 to 18 months in French and Hungarian oak.

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90

2020 Simonsig Chenin Avec Chene

Starting with aromas of vanilla and oak spice, the 2020 Chenin Avec Chene displays notes of lemon yogurt with wax melon and yellow apples. Medium-bodied, the palate offers a lively texture and weight before showing a kiss of phenolic bitterness as the wine glides to a softly spicy finish. After the wine aged for a year in seasoned French oak, 8,000 bottles were produced. It's delightfully food friendly and versatile.

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90

2020 Warwick Estate The Blue Lady Cabernet Sauvignon

Still tight in the glass, the 2020 The Blue Lady Cabernet Sauvignon is red fruited with an herbal essence of sage, crème de cassis and redcurrant that lift from the glass with hints of spiced plums and dusty oak. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is slightly shy, showing a more petite frame, and it's less generous than previous vintages but ends with a food-friendly finish that is still delightful. The wine aged for 22 months in French oak barrels, 38% new oak. 1,500 cases were produced.

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90

2020 Vergelegen GVB White

Composed of 63% Sauvignon Blanc and 37% Sémillon, the 2020 GVB White bursts with bright and expressive fresh herbs and succulent sweet citrus as ripe green apples waft from the glass. Medium-bodied, this is focused, balanced and fresh with a fine leesy texture that mingles with notions of white spiced tea across the palate. The wine glides to a graceful, fresh, crisp finish. Give it a try.

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90

2020 Haskell Haskell IV

Made from 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Haskell IV opens to aromas of dark cherry skin, hints of truffle and soft notes of black raspberry and spiced plum skin. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is firm and open with juicy acidity and a juicy, just-ripe berry essence. It lingers with a spicy, food-friendly finish. The wine rested for a year and a half in French oak. Just over 2,000 bottles produced.

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90

2020 The Fledge & Co Hoeksteen Chenin Blanc

Showing a more generous frame than the previous vintage, the 2020 Hoeksteen Chenin Blanc offers hints of graham cracker with toasted oats and sweet citrus, while hints of lees and yellow apple waft from the glass. Medium-bodied and clocking in at 13.2% alcohol, flavors of toasted oak spice express before showing a delightful weight and texture. The wine uncoils and ends with a slightly spicy, food-friendly finish. The wine spent 10 months on the lees. 1,200 bottles were produced.

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90

2020 Thelema Mountain Vineyards Reserve Merlot Stellenbosch

Beginning with herbal aromas of mint, menthol and eucalyptus, the 2020 Reserve Merlot Stellenbosch offers spicy undertones of wild brush before dusty red florals and hints of spiced cherry skin pop out of the glass. Medium to full-bodied, this currently shows tight tannins, and it has a spicy and herbal finish. The wine spent 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels, but it will perform better with more time in the bottle. Give it one more year. 4,666 bottles were produced.

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90

2020 Miles Mossop Wines Kika

The 2020 Kika is a noble late harvest Chenin Blanc and offers succulent sweet florals with aromas of apricot purée, honey, apple reduction and peach cobbler on the nose with notes of golden raisins. Medium to full-bodied, with 11% alcohol and just under 200 grams per liter of residual sugar, the palate is rich, dense and fully structured with succulent sweetness and waxy fruit essence. The Kika continues to unwind as it gradually comes to a halt over the long, sappy finish.

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90

2020 Tempel Wines Sorgvry

Made from 50% whole cluster grapes, the 2020 Sorgvry is fresh and bright with crunchy red fruit, freshly opened red flowers and a ruby core. Medium-bodied, the palate offers fresh juicy red-berried flavors with cherry and raspberry notes before providing a kiss of white spice and mineral tension. The Cinsault ends with a bright, food-friendly, energetic finish. 4,315 bottles were produced and are ready for action.

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90

2020 Hartenberg Estate Chardonnay

Ripe, succulent and focused, the 2020 Chardonnay offers aromas of lemon pastry cream with sweet citrus, yellow apples and underripe peach skin with hints of oak spices. Medium-bodied, the palate offers a fresh and delightful texture with food-friendly flavors of almond paste before energetic acidity drives the finish. The wine rested for a year in French oak, 15% first use. Just under 42,000 bottles were made. Give it a try and enjoy it with food.

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90

2020 Metzger Family Wines Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon starts with balanced and rich aromas of red and black fruits, flowers, graphite, baked earth, pencil shavings and herbs. It has a medium to full body, offering a firm mouthfeel before ending with a long-lasting spicy finish that is ready for food. The wine spent 15 months in French oak, 30% new. 3,000 bottles were filled.

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2020 Glenelly Estate The Glass Collection Syrah

Made with a portion of whole-cluster grapes, the 2020 The Glass Collection Syrah offers notes of dusty violets, dark red fruit essence, black peppercorn and hints of potpourri. Medium to full-bodied, the palate displays a spicy and herbal tone with notes of olive. At the same time, a growing tannic edge gives way to a long, spicy, lingering finish with a soft esophageal burn from elevated alcohol. Enjoy with food.

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90

2020 Stellenview Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Sauvignon Blanc

Starting with a citrus and mineral-driven nose, the 2020 Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Sauvignon Blanc offers notes of gunflint with lime skin and Meyer lemon before hints of gooseberry and smoke express themselves on the nose. Medium-bodied, the mouthfeel is zesty, offering hints of lees on the palate with notions of lemon yogurt before ending with a lingering, zesty finish. Enjoy with food.

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90

2020 Rainbow's End Shiraz

Dark-fruited with juicy and spicy notes of smoked meats and black peppercorn, the 2020 Shiraz is firm and bold in the glass. Full-bodied, succulent and extracted, the palate offers gripping tannins with a spicy, food-friendly expression that is meant for barbecue and roasted meats. Just under 4,500 bottles were produced. This should please the Aussie Shiraz lovers.

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2020 Stellenview The Pledge Our Stellie Cabernet Sauvignon

Beginning with a smoky and dark-fruited nose, the 2020 The Pledge Our Stellie Cabernet Sauvignon offers a juicy core of ripe blackberry and spiced plum as herbal tones lift from the glass with a soft floral essence. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is firm with a tannic edge before loosening to reveal layers of fresh dark fruits with notes of sage, with pencil shavings and graphite over the lingering finish. The wine matured for a year and a half in French oak. 15,000 bottles were produced.

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90

2020 Babylonstoren Shiraz

Dusty blackberries, spiced plum and floral notes jump out of the glass of the 2020 Shiraz before notes of espresso bean and succulent bramble fruit merge with black and red peppercorns and a mineral essence on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is juicy and fresh, with fine-grained tannins and delectable dark fruit tones that burst across the mid-palate. This has black cherry and mocha flavors over the lingering, mineral-laced, spicy finish. Give it a try.

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2020 Jordan Wine Estate The Prospector Syrah

Beginning with an open and expressive nose ready for action, the 2020 The Prospector Syrah is spicy with generously layered dusty black fruit sensations that verge on almost overripe. Full-bodied, the spicy and oak-inflected palate offers ripe and succulent fruit, sticky tannins and juicy acidity, ending with a boozy finish. For extracted and generously layered Syrah lovers, you'll want to add this to your shopping list.

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2019 Stellenview Kruger Family Reserve Shiraz

The freshest of the range, the 2019 Kruger Family Reserve Shiraz offers ripe, juicy and succulent red cherry skin and plum essence with notes of potpourri and red peppercorn. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is bright with spice notes that first appear before bright, succulent acidity mingles with fine-grained tannins. The wine continues to unfold and uncoil before showing additional layers of spicy red fruit and potpourri over the food-friendly finish.

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2019 Man Family Wines Lielvland Heart's Ease Syrah

Smoky and dark-fruited, the 2019 Lielvland Heart's Ease Syrah offers aromas of blackberry essence with a spicy, rich plum reduction and hints of roasted black raspberries. Medium-bodied, the palate provides a delightful weight with a lively texture that will remain food friendly for years, while flavors of blackberry juice and notes of spicy florals mingle with soft notions of potpourri and peppercorn. The Syrah ends with a spicy, red-fruited finish with lingering notes of eucalyptus and mint. Only 2,500 bottles were produced.

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2019 Boekenhoutskloof Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon

Made with 5% Cabernet Franc, the 2019 Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon is darkly fruited at its core with hints of sweet oak, herbal spices and dark cherry skin. Medium to full-bodied, the wine compresses on the palate to show juicy acidity with just-ripe, bright red fruit and fine-grained tannins that linger through the delightful finish. This food-friendly Cabernet spent 22 months in French oak barrels, 75% new. Well done!

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2019 Keermont Vineyards Merlot

Juicy and primary on the nose, the 2019 Merlot offers a plummy essence with bright and shiny dark red fruit aromas. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is succulent with juicy tannins and vibrant acidity that drive through the mid-palate to deliver a delightful and food-friendly finish. Just under 6,600 bottles were filled after the wine rested for about 22 months in French oak barrels. Give it a try.

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2019 Tokara Director's Reserve White

The 2019 Director's Reserve White is a blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc with 30% Sémillon. The nose offers sweet citrus, green apples and white spice aromas with a touch of reduction. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is layered with a soft leesy aspect, as notes of spiced white tea melt into a mineral-laced, citrus finish, concluding with lingering brown baking spices on the aftertaste.

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2019 Aaldering Pinotage

The 2019 Pinotage starts with a dark ruby core with juicy and spicy dark fruit aromas with hints of bitter dark chocolate, black tea and dusty plum skins. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced with succulent tannins and a lively beam of acidity that drives the finish with lingering oaky flavors on the aftertaste. The wine rested for 20 months in French oak barrels, 30% new. Give it a try. 12,500 bottles produced.

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90

2019 Kleine Zalze Vineyard Selection Shiraz

Generously layered and juicy, the 2019 Vineyard Selection Shiraz starts with aromas of blackberry juice and spiced plum flavors. Full-bodied, the palate shows a bold and firm frame of black spice before tannins grip the gumline and drive through the long, spicy and juicy finish. This firm, dark-fruited Shiraz still offers juicy and primary fruit flavors and will benefit from additional time in the bottle. After the wine matured for 21 months in French oak, 30% new, 29,000 bottles were made.

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90

2019 Waterkloof Estate Circumstance Cabernet Sauvignon

Opening to a focused and fresh nose, the 2019 Circumstance Cabernet Sauvignon offers aromas of pencil shavings, graphite dusty red fruits and herbal essences in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the palate provides a firm gripping tannic edge that subsides for fine mineral tension that grows in amplitude. The wine continues to uncoil in the mouth, showing additional layers of complexity that will evolve beautifully through the decade. Be patient; it will be better in time. 11,600 bottles were produced after the wine rested just over two years in French oak.

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2017 Zevenwacht Reserve

Made from mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Petit Verdot and 6% Malbec, the 2017 Reserve starts with ripe red fruit aromas that sway with an undercurrent of herbal essence and sweet oak tones. It's a full-bodied wine with succulent acidity and a firm tannic edge expressed with notes of dusty cherry and plum blossom essence. The wine continues to uncoil and unravel, revealing additional layers of herbs and fruits before ending with a bright, succulent finish and firm tannic edge that will benefit from additional years of bottle aging. The wine aged for 18 months in 40% new French oak. 4,000 bottles were produced. Give it one more year in the bottle, and enjoy it through the decade's end.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2019 Mooiplaas Rosalind Estate Blend

The 2019 Rosalind Estate Blend is robust in the glass and consists of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Cabernet Franc, 12% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot. Ripe, juicy and fresh red fruit aromas waft from the glass with elements of plum skin, spiced cherries, and blackberry skin. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers hints of turned earth, with graphite and pencil shavings before showing a firm tannic edge. This wine will remain food friendly for five to seven more years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2019 KVV The Mentors Petit Verdot

Starting with a generous nose and deep purple core, the 2019 The Mentors Petit Verdot is showing the best of the range with ripe, bold and juicy black fruit compote with notes of spiced plums and resinous purple flowers. Full-bodied, the palate is mineral-driven with a textural expression that continues to reveal complexities over the evolving and spicy finish with lingering blackberry juice and mocha notes. It's a sturdy, well-made wine with a delightful, food-friendly expression.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2019 Waterford Estate Antigo

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 18% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec, the 2019 Antigo starts with a ripe and generous nose that shifts to more red fruit tones with spinning in the glass. Medium-bodied, firm tannins express on the palate with succulent, bright acidity, making this wine food friendly. It has a delightfully lingering finish. This delightful red blend spent 22 months in French oak barrels and filled 9,000 bottles.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2019 Kaapzicht Skemerlig Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2019 Skemerlig Cabernet Sauvignon starts with juicy, ripe red and black fruit aromas with notions of spiced red plum and dark cherry skin. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fresh with balanced tannins that linger with a ripe, succulent freshness that over-delivers. It's a well-made, hearty Cabernet Sauvignon that will go great with grilled chops.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2019 Metzger Family Wines Shiraz

Starting a bit funky initially, the 2019 Shiraz opens up after spinning in the glass. The wine opens with dark red fruits, aromas of black peppercorn and wild brush. Medium to full-bodied, this has a spicy palate with a ripe frame of fruit that glides to a long, spicy finish. The wine will remain food friendly for the next half decade. The wine rested for almost a year in French oak, 10% new. 3,000 bottles were produced.

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2019 Vriesenhof Vineyards Kallista

The 2019 Kallista is composed of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Cabernet Franc and 25% Merlot. The nose is vibrant and red-fruited, offering notes of spiced cherries and dusty plums before wafting with brown baking spices and graphite. Medium-bodied, the wine is firm with succulent tannins before ending with a tight, food-friendly finish. The wine spent a year in 50% new French oak, and I suspect this will perform better with a few more years in the bottle. 6,600 bottles were filled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2019 Kleine Zalze Project Z Chenin Blanc

The 2019 Project Z Chenin Blanc is fresh, bright and citrus-driven, with notions of waxy yellow apple and citrus blossom on the nose. Medium-bodied, the wine is clean, impressive and nimble with succulent acidity before shrinking slightly to show a soft, lean and food-friendly finish. Left in amphora on the lees for nine months, 1,500 bottles were made without the use of wood. Bravo. This is delightful juice.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2019 Fleur du Cap Merlot Unfiltered

The nose of the 2019 Merlot Unfiltered features fresh, ripe and focused aromas of fleshy red plums and spiced cherries. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers an oaky essence with sweet, juicy and ripe berry flavors, end with a balanced and spicy finish. The wine aged in French oak barrels for 18 months. Just under 5,700 bottles were made. The wine is in great shape and will live for many more years. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2019 Taaibosch Le Chant Rouge

Composed of 38% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Shiraz and 2% Sangiovese, the 2019 Le Chant Rouge begins with a red-fruited and dusty nose with cherry skins and plums before herbs and spice waft from the glass. Medium-bodied, the wine expresses a floral and spicy lift before showing a balanced structure. The wine concludes with a balanced and succulent finish. Enjoy with food. It will remain food friendly for a half decade more.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Anwilka

The 2018 Anwilka offers a delightful refinement and finesse, wafting with layers of dusty red fruit, oak and elegant red flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the palate provides balanced tannins with lively acidity that lingers across the mid-palate through the ever-evolving finish without showing any greenness. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Uva Mira Mountain Vineyards Icon Chardonnay

Coming from a single vineyard, the 2018 Icon Chardonnay offers a fresh, ripe, juicy nose with sweet citrus, popcorn kernel, yellow apples and pears. Medium-bodied, the palate provides flavors of lemon pastry cream with a delicate mouthfeel before showing a lively beam of energetic acidity that bursts across the palate. The wine glides to a lingering, spicy, food-friendly finish and has me craving seafood and butter-poached fish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Dornier Donatus Red

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with less than 12% each of Petit Verdot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Merlot, the 2018 Donatus Red is ripe, juicy and fresh with a stylized, fruit-forward approach that wafts with spicy florals. Full-bodied, the wine is succulent and spicy on the palate with glossy fruit purity and glides to a food-friendly finish. 6,500 bottles were filled after the wine rested for 18 months in French oak, 33% new.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

The nose of the 2018 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon is generously layered, offering a bold frame of juicy, almost overripe notions of plum preserves and spiced cherry compote. Full-bodied, the palate is firm, juicy and dark-fruited, delivering power and extraction of fruit with driving tannins and juicy acidity. The wine continues to evolve, showing persistent flavors of dark cherry skin and blackberry reduction over the long, spicy finish. Just under 13,000 bottles were filled after aging for 18 months in French oak barrels, 70% new.

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2018 Tokara Reserve Collection Syrah

Starting with a deep ruby core and magenta rim, the 2018 Reserve Collection Syrah offers a sturdy nose with juicy blackberry essence, crushed peppercorns, roasting coffee beans and fresh purple flowers and herbs. Medium to full-bodied, the Syrah is firmly tannic on the palate, offering flavors of bitter dark chocolate with spiced plum compote before coming to a juicy, spicy, succulent finish. The wine matured for 22 months in 31% new French oak. Just under 5,700 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2017 Longridge Wine Estate Reserve Red Blend

Mostly Merlot with 5% Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Reserve Red Blend is ripe with a red fruit essence and has elegant oak tones and a fresh and floral edge. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers succulent acidity with food-friendly tannins that frame the wine as flavors of spiced plum and dark cherry skin roll over the lingering and spicy finish. The wine matured in 60% new oak barrels. Only 2,500 bottles were produced. Nicely done.

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90

2017 Simonsig Cuvee Royale Blanc de Blancs

The 2017 Cuvee Royale Blanc de Blancs starts with a nose of toasted brioche, almond butter, lemon yogurt with green apple skin and Meyer lemon. Light to medium-bodied, the mouthfeel is bright and succulent with energetic acidity before revealing elegant spice notes that mingle with a soft yeasty and nutty essence. The wine glides to a delightfully lingering and food-friendly finish. 12,000 bottles were produced.

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90

2017 Alto Cabernet Sauvignon

Checking back on the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon, I felt the need to give it the one-point bump to push it over the line. The nose is ripe, round and fresh with bright red cherry skin, red plum and notes of truffle and forest floor. Medium to full-bodied, the palate unfolds with juicy, fine-grained tannins that will continue to drink well for years. It ends with a delightfully lingering and spicy finish. 73,000 bottles were filled after the wine for 18 months in a mix of first, second and third use French oak barrels.

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90

2017 Simonsig Frans Malan Reserve

Mostly Pinotage with 23% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot, the 2017 Frans Malan Reserve starts with a clean and correct nose that offers juicy and dusty red fruit aromas and hints of leather and pencil lead. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced with succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins that give way to spiced plum and blackberry essence flavors before ending with a spicy and complex finish. Nicely done!

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90

2017 De Morgenzon Maestro Red

The 2017 Maestro Red is composed of 36% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc, 10% Petit Verdot and 5% Malbec. The nose is dark and dusty with blackberry essence and a waft of a soft herbal nuance. Medium to full-bodied, the wine's dark-fruited nature turns red-fruited and shrinks slightly in scope before revealing a tight beam of acidity across the mid-palate. This has a delightfully lingering, complex finish and will remain food friendly for years. 15,000 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 18 months in French oak barrels, about 20% new. Given the nature of the 2017s at the present moment, I would drink this over the next five years, if not sooner.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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90

2016 Vergelegen GVB Red

Made from 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, the 2016 GVB Red offers a nose draped in oak with notes of fresh, ripe red fruit essences that mingle with pencil shavings and graphite. Medium to full-bodied and with 14.7% alcohol, the wine is just starting to hit its stride, showing succulent acidity with lifting tannins before revealing a fresh, juicy and spicy frame of dark red and black fruit flavors. The wine continues to unpack and uncoil in the mouth before gradually coming to a long-lingering and spicy finish. The wine aged for a year and a half in 50% new French oak barrels. Only 5,000 bottles were produced.

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90?

2019 Boschendal Cabernet Sauvignon

Feeling like it is being pulled in two different directions, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon oddly has power and depth while offering persistent green herbal notes and tight tannins. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is generous and juicy, then compresses with flavors of fire-roasted red peppers with notes of sage and thyme before firm gripping tannins clamp down on the gum line. I suspect it will show better in time. We'll see...

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89+

2021 Oldenburg Vineyards Chardonnay

The nose of the 2021 Chardonnay is soft, compressed and subdued with more dusty and mineral notions than sweet citrus. Medium-bodied, this shows soft oaky essences on the palate before Meyer lemon and yellow apple flavors melt into a more textural and mineral-laced mouthfeel that continues to a softer, spicy finish that leaves me wanting more expression and varietal purity. I can see this getting better in a few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89+

2021 Haskell Dombeya Chardonnay

Offering aromas of white peach, yellow apple and hints of oak with sweet citrus, the 2021 Dombeya Chardonnay is fresh and pleasing on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is layered with juicy acidity before ending with an elegant finish and lingering flavor of dusty citrus blossom. The wine aged on the lees for a year in approximately 15% new French oak. Just over 6,500 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89+

2021 Waterkloof Estate Seriously Cool Cinsault

Vibrant and juicy, the 2021 Seriously Cool Cinsault displays notions of dusty rose petals before enticing aromas of cherries and raspberries emerge from the glass. Light-bodied and with 12.5% alcohol, the palate is expressive with flavors of crunchy red fruit and fresh potpourri before displaying balanced tannins and succulent acidity over the food-friendly finish. It's a fun and crushable wine that provides pleasure. Be careful; with the lower alcohol and the wine's crunchy red-fruit nature, it goes down so easily that you might end up finishing the bottle.

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89+

2021 Waterford Estate Pecan Stream Chenin Blanc

The 2021 Pecan Stream Chenin Blanc offers ripe and succulent aromas of juicy peach, yellow apple and Meyer lemons with hints of sweet pear skin. With a medium body and 13% alcohol, the palate is fresh, complex and delightful, showing succulent food-friendly acidity before offering a kiss of phenolic bitterness on the citrus-laced finish.

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89+

2021 Kara-Tara Chardonnay

The 2021 Chardonnay offers aromas of yellow apples and sweet citrus blossoms. Medium-bodied, with vibrant acidity and underripe pineapple flavors, it displays little oak influence and has varietal purity in a compact, delightful package. The ripe pineapple finish is enticing and invites another sip. Overall, it's a well-made wine. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89+

2021 Mooiplaas Pinotage

Fresh and juicy, the 2021 Pinotage opens with a hint of spice and blackberry essence, accompanied by a soft dustiness. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced and food-friendly before ending with a succulent red and black-fruited finish. Only 11,000 bottles were produced.

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89+

2020 Kara-Tara Pinot Noir

The 2020 Pinot Noir has a bright, juicy red fruit aroma of just-ripe tart cherry essence and elegant floral notes on the nose. Medium-bodied, the wine is fresh and fruity on the palate with hints of potpourri, a balanced structure and a satisfying, fleshy food-friendly finish. Give it a try.

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89+

2020 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Brut MCC Zinfandel

The 2020 Brut MCC Zinfandel is pale pink in color with flecks of orange on the rim and offers a fresh and vibrant nose with hints of lemon zest, strawberry and biscuity brioche. The palate is fresh, zesty and bright with energetic acidity at 11.5% alcohol. This delightful, food-friendly sparkler offers a nice mouthfeel with a frothy mousse before ending with a succulent, easy-drinking finish. The wine spent 24 months on the lees. 30,000 bottles produced.

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89+

2020 Alto Alto Rouge

Made from a blend of 30% Cabernet Franc, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Syrah, 12% Petit Verdot and 11% Merlot, the 2020 Alto Rouge is ripe, juicy and fresh with bright red fruit tones of red cherry and black raspberry. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced, offering a supporting structure of succulent acidity and fine-grained tannins without as much of the herbal notes as in previous vintages. The wine concludes with a ripe, fresh, food-friendly finish. About 400,000 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 14 to 16 months in a combination of first, second and third use French oak barriques.

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89+

2019 Waterkloof Estate Circumstance Cabernet Franc

Opening to a nose of herbal essences with a subtle smoky expression, the 2019 Circumstance Cabernet Franc is delightful, with cherry skin aromas that bloom with a delicate mineral essence. Medium to full-bodied, this is clean, pure and focused on the palate, with soft layers of dusty red fruit with hints of brown baking spices before coming to an herbal finish. 4,600 bottles were produced after the wine aged for 21 months in French oak barrels, 10% new.

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89+

2019 Longridge Wine Estate Chenin Blanc Ou Steen

Offering a firmer expression on the nose, the 2019 Chenin Blanc Ou Steen offers notions of melon, marzipan and grilled lemon skin. Medium-bodied, the palate shows depth and complexity with flavors of white peach before a kiss of phenolic bitterness expresses with notes of spicy citrus blossom and hints of lees. The wine glides to a round, focused and food-friendly finish. Only 1,600 bottles were produced after the wine rested for two years in used oak.

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89+

2019 Lanzerac Jonkershoek Reserve

Composed of a blend of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Syrah and 20% Petit Verdot, the 2019 Jonkershoek Reserve opens with notions of black and red fruit tones with hints of herbal essences. Medium to full-bodied, the wine compresses on the palate to show more red fruit flavors with dark cherry and plum tones as a bright beam of acidity races across the mid-palate with a tannic edge. This has a succulent, lingering finish, but it will perform better in time or with food.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89+

2018 Eikendal Infused by Earth Cabernet Franc

The 2018 Infused by Earth Cabernet Franc is fresh and firm, with layers of expressive dark red berry aromas and a subtle hint of red pepper skin. It is medium to full-bodied and generous yet balanced, with succulent acidity that gives it a robust, food-friendly quality and a delightful finish. 1,000 bottles produced. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89+

2018 Rascallion Wines A Mother's Journey

Beginning a touch reductive in the glass, the 2018 A Mother's Journey offers red and black peppercorns with blackberry juice before showing an approachable and open-knit frame. Medium to full-bodied, the palate provides juicy, dark fruit layers with a tannic edge before heading to a spicy and succulent finish. Enjoy it over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89+

2018 Stellenview Kruger Family Reserve Shiraz

Ripe and juicy aromas of dark red and black fruit aromas pop from the 2018 Kruger Family Reserve Shiraz, along with notes of dried herbs, sweet oak and red spices. Medium to full-bodied, the wine compresses on the palate to show more red fruit flavors of dark cherry skin and red plums before a tannic edge cuts through to the finish. I suspect this will perform a little better in a few more years.

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89+

2018 Stellenview Kruger Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Beginning with fresh dark cherries and ripe blackberry-skin essence, the 2018 Kruger Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon offers notes of graphite and pencil shavings with notes of wilted flowers on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, gripping tannins firm up on the palate while providing succulent acidity and a spicy essence that comes into focus. The wine continues to uncoil before ending with a lingering and spicy finish. Enjoy over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89+

2018 Idiom Bordicon

The 2018 Bordicon is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot, 5% Malbec and 5% Petit Verdot. Starting with a firm, dense, extracted nose, aromas of slightly-stewed dark red and black fruit sway from the glass with a kiss of volatility. Medium to full-bodied, the palate compresses to show succulent dark red fruit tones before displaying the heavy-handedness of winemaking and less of the expression of terroir and varietal purity. The wine ends with a spicy, lingering finish with a firm tannic edge. The wine rested in French oak barrels, 45% new. Just under 5,600 bottles produced.

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89+

2018 Haskell Pillars Syrah

Made with 25% whole-cluster Syrah, the 2018 Pillars Syrah opens with notions of dusty purple flowers, dark red fruit aromas, a touch of reduction and hints of red and black peppercorns that waft from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is initially spicy with juicy, dark red cherries flavors and ends with a soft herbal and tannic finish. The wine rested for 18 months in French oak barrels, 30% first use. 1,730 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89+

2017 Stellenview Kruger Family Reserve Shiraz

Juicy, ripe and focused, the 2017 Kruger Family Reserve Shiraz offers sweet black fruit aromas with notions of spiced potpourri and black peppercorns. Medium to full-bodied, the wine shifts to a dark red-fruited profile, compressing on the palate to become more tannic and spicy over the food-friendly finish. 65,000 bottles were produced. Drink over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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89

2022 Warwick Estate First Lady Sauvignon Blanc

Popping with a bright, fresh, citrus-driven nose of sweet lime and peach, the 2022 First Lady Sauvignon Blanc offers delightful notes of Meyer lemon, citrus blossom and under-ripe pineapple. Medium-bodied and with 13% alcohol, the palate is fresh, vibrant and crisp with lively acidity, showing a balanced structure over a delightfully lingering citrusy finish. 10,000 cases of this fantastically priced Sauvignon Blanc were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Simonsig Chenin Blanc

The 2022 Chenin Blanc starts with a pale lemon color and a fresh nose of bright citrus, yellow apple and wax melon. Medium-bodied, fresh and zesty, the palate is food friendly with mouth-watering acidity that makes me crave fresh seafood, cheeses and salads. The wine continues to evolve, ending with a hint of herbal green citrus and lime candy notes.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Babylonstoren Candide

The 2022 Candide is about half Chenin Blanc, with the remainder of the blend consisting of 14% Viognier, 21% Chardonnay, 10% Sémillon and 6% Sauvignon Blanc. The nose is fresh and floral and bursts with aromas of sweet Meyer lemon, wax melon, peach skin and yellow apple with hints of jasmine and honeysuckle. Medium-bodied, the palate offers a kiss of phenolic bitterness before delivering a fresh line of floral essence across the mid-palate, which has a juicy mouthfeel and hints of cantaloupe and mandarin orange. This has a delightfully crisp and succulent finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Babylonstoren Mourvèdre Rosé

The 2022 Mourvèdre Rosé starts with a pale pink color and bursts from the glass with vibrant citrus notes before notes of yellow cherry, wet concrete and petrichor notes. Medium-bodied and with 13% alcohol, the palate is fresh, zesty and clean, with subtle notes of dusty strawberries and spicy lemons before ending with a tangy, food-friendly finish. Enjoy well chilled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Kaapzicht Chenin Blanc

Bottled under screw cap, the 2022 Chenin Blanc offers a focused and fresh nose with yellow apples and waxy citrus tones. Medium-bodied, the wine is fresh and juicy on the palate, with soft notions of white peach and a kiss of phenolic bitterness, ending with a fresh, juicy finish. This overdelivers for the price of admission.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Rosé

Displaying a pale pink color, the 2022 Rosé is made from 69% Zinfandel and 31% Malbec. The nose begins with citrus and mineral tones before offering hints of strawberry lemonade and a petrichor note with wet concrete. Medium-bodied and with 13% alcohol, this delightful rosé packs a lively punch with a fresh, bright, succulent mouthfeel before turning to a fresh, juicy finish. It's a lovely, food-friendly wine that overdelivers at this price point. 27,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Saxenburg Private Collection Sauvignon Blanc

Made with 2% Sémillon, the 2022 Private Collection Sauvignon Blanc opens to a nose of Meyer lemons with juicy notions of apple and white flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced with a delightful mineral tension that offers notes of peach blossom and yellow apples before gliding to a citrus-laced finish. The wine rested on the lees for three months. Just under 27,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Mooiplaas Sauvignon Blanc

Offering hints of tropical fruit aromas with soft pineapple and succulent green apple tones, the 2022 Sauvignon Blanc displays a soft expression of peach essence. Light to medium-bodied, the mouthfeel is refreshing, with a juicy palate that ends with a touch of sweetness and underripe peach flavors. 11,000 bottles were made from free-run juice without the use of oak.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Waterkloof Estate Circle Of Life White

Made from just over half Sauvignon Blanc with 39% Chenin Blanc and 4% Sémillon, the 2021 Circle Of Life White begins with a juicy and fresh nose with open and accessible sweet citrus aromas. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is open-knit and accessible, offering a kiss of phenolic bitterness while a delightful beam of acidity makes my mouth water and urges me to eat. There is a spicy and lingering finish. 30,000 bottles were produced from handpicked grapes that were co-fermented in 600-liter French oak barrels.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Jordan Wine Estate Cold Fact Sauvignon Blanc

Starting with the aromas of passion fruit, guava and sweet citrus, the 2021 Cold Fact Sauvignon Blanc offers hints of blackcurrant bud and grapefruit on the nose. Medium-bodied and clocking in at 13% alcohol, the wine is focused, round and expressive, and it has a clean and energetic finish. It was made without the use of oak. Just under 27,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Aaldering Florence Chenin Blanc

Displaying a bright core and straw-colored hue, the 2021 Florence Chenin Blanc is fresh, citrus-driven and expressive with aromas of dusty citrus blossom, white peach pit and a delightful mineral essence. Medium-bodied, the palate is fresh and offers a balanced structure with a kiss of phenolic bitterness before ending with a crisp, clean, food-friendly finish. 7,500 bottles were made without the use of oak.

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2021 Longridge Wine Estate Chenin Blanc

Starting with a classic and fresh nose, the 2021 Chenin Blanc is lovely. It has notions of sweet lemons and apple skin before soft aromas of wax melon and a touch of reduction float out of the glass. Medium-bodied and with a kiss of residual sugar, the palate offers a touch of phenolic bitterness before the wine grows spicier. This ends with a delightfully fresh, clean finish with a persistent mineral edge. After the wine rested for six months on the lees, 10,000 bottles were produced. Give it a try.

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2021 Lanzerac Chardonnay

Beginning with a pale straw color, the 2021 Chardonnay offers ripe aromas of apples with sweet lemons and Bosc pear on the nose. Medium-bodied, the wine is balanced with oak essence and shows a delightful weight across the mid-palate before compressing slightly and showing a smaller-framed Chardonnay. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Tokara Reserve Collection Stellenbosch Chardonnay

Clean, oaky and precise, the 2021 Reserve Collection Stellenbosch Chardonnay offers aromas of sweet citrus, lemon panna cotta and green apples on the nose. Medium-bodied, the palate is focused with a balanced structure, offering energetic acidity that lingers onto the delightfully crisp finish. After resting on the lees for 11 months in 42% French oak barrels, 21,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Warwick Estate The First Lady Pinotage

Bursting with bright red fruits, the 2021 The First Lady Pinotage offers notes of red and black peppercorn with soft savory notions. Medium-bodied and sporting 13% alcohol, the palate provides juicy cherry flavors with crunchy red fruit and potpourri spice before displaying a balanced structure with fine-grained tannins and succulent acidity. This Pinotage has a delightfully fresh finish that has me craving charcuterie.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Aaldering Sauvignon Blanc

Bright, juicy and fresh, the 2021 Sauvignon Blanc starts with a dusty, mineral-driven nose with elements of lemon meringue, candied lime and hints of herbal essences. Medium-bodied, the wine is balanced on the palate, with the herbal elements continuing to grow in amplitude before ending with a mineral-laced finish. 7,500 bottles were made without the use of oak.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Le Bonheur Blanc Fume Reserve

Smoky and mineral driven with a generous frame, the 2021 Blanc Fume Reserve offers a ripe and layered nose of sweet citrus and hints of brown baking spices. Medium-bodied but with considerable weight and texture, the mouthfeel is heavy and dense yet offers a delightful expression that lingers with a broad and spicy finish. Only 2,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Aaldering Pinotage Blanc

Yes, truth in advertising, the Blanc de Noir 2021 Pinotage Blanc is clean, crisp and fresh with aromas of citrus blossom, sweet-tart candy and elegant, sweet citrus skin. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a mineral-driven expression with citrus flavors before a soft prickle appears on the palate, ending with a soft nutty and juicy citrus expression. 3,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Botanica Wines Big Flower Cabernet Sauvignon

Delivering in a similar frame as the Cabernet Franc of the same range, the 2021 Big Flower Cabernet Sauvignon offers a red-fruited profile with hints of spicy herbs and dusty red flowers. Medium to full-bodied, the Cabernet Sauvignon is straightforward on the palate with just-ripe and juicy red plum flavors followed by notes of crème de cassis and hints of oak spice. Balanced and focused, the wine ends with a soft lingering finish that makes me want more varietal purity to push my score higher. The wine rested for about a year in 10% new oak barrels. 14,000 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 The Fledge & Co Veld Versnit Field Blend

Composed of an interesting blend of 70% Cinsault, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Alicante Bouchet, the 2020 Veld Versnit Field Blend offers a spicy and red-fruited nose. The herbal notes from the Cabernet Franc detract from the high-toned, crunchy red fruit essence from the Cinsault and start to fight just slightly. Medium-bodied and with a lightly spicy palate, the wine continues offering notes of red florals, raspberry and cherry essence with hints of pepper and sage notes before ending with a lingering spicy finish. The wine aged for 10 months in old French barrels. 1,236 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Malbec

Beginning with a nose that is about halfway between fruit-driven Argentine Malbec and mineral-driven Cahors, the 2020 Malbec is dusty with hints of ripe plum, dusty peppercorn and wild brush with black cherry and crème de cassis aromas. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is fresh, mineral and well-balanced, showing succulent acidity with fine-grained tannins before gliding to a firm, food-friendly finish. This Malbec aged for one year in French oak barrels, 23% first use. 18,000 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Ken Forrester The Misfits Syrah

Starting with a subtly spiced nose, the 2020 The Misfits Syrah offers dusty red fruits with notes of red peppercorn and potpourri spice. Medium to full-bodied, the Syrah is focused and sincere, offering dark red fruits balanced with succulent acidity and lifting tannins. The wine is clean, correct and fresh, ending in a delightfully lingering, potpourri-spiced finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Rainbow's End Cabernet Sauvignon

Aromas of fresh red berries lift out of the glass of the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon with soft notions of cherry, red plum and redcurrant and hints of sweet herbs and subtle spice tones. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fresh, succulent and juicy with a firm tannic edge that drives through the finish. Enjoy with food. Just under 9,000 bottles were produced.

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2020 Eikendal Chardonnay

The 2020 Chardonnay offers a mix of ripe fruit aromas of green apple, succulent pear, sweet citrus and a hint of oak on the nose. Medium-bodied, rich and balanced, this delightful Chardonnay is pleasing on the palate with balanced acidity and fresh citrus flavors, gliding to a succulent finish. The wine aged in barrel for 12-14 months. 12,000 bottles produced. Enjoy for the next 5-6 years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Longridge Wine Estate Longridge Chardonnay

Open-knit and accessible, the 2020 Longridge Chardonnay offers subtle aromas of tropical fruits, ripe Golden Delicious apple skin and pear-drop candies. Medium-bodied, the wine is fleshy with a soft and juicy freshness before coming to an easy-drinking, slightly spicy, lemon-curd finish. 7,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Glenelly Estate The Glass Collection Merlot

Plummy and dusty, the 2020 The Glass Collection Merlot offers notions of sage and bitter dark chocolate in the glass. Medium-bodied, the wine is earthy on the palate with notions of black tea and will remain food-friendly for the next five years. It ends with a delightfully succulent, spicy finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Eikendal Charisma

Made from a blend of 80% Shiraz, 17% Petit Verdot and 3% Sangiovese, the 2020 Charisma displays a dark ruby core. The nose has a hearty mixture of firm dark fruit and a hint of dusty floral essences while possessing a juicy ripeness. The wine is full-bodied on the palate, with a kiss of volatility and a tannic edge before winding to a spicy, lingering finish that will best be enjoyed with food. It matured for 12 months in French oak— no new barrels. 50,000 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Tempel Wines Skemerdans Grenache

Starting with bright red fruit aromas with a fine mineral essence, the 2020 Skemerdans Grenache is subdued and shy on the nose. Medium-bodied and with 13.5% alcohol, the palate shows fine mineral tension where the fruit profile compresses slightly before ending with an expedited finish. Hopefully, it gets better with time.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Mooiplaas Merlot Cabernet Franc

Truth in advertising, the 2020 Merlot Cabernet Franc blends 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc. It has herbal and plummy aromas with notions of dark cherry skin. Upon swirling, the wine opens to reveal layers of juicy fruit tones. The mid-palate presents red fruits and additional herbal notes, and there is a straightforward and uncomplicated finish. The wine aged for a year and a half in French oak barrels, 10% new. 4,400 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 KWV The Mentors Cabernet Franc

The 2020 The Mentors Cabernet Franc offers notes of sweet red pepper, sage, tobacco, ancho chili, spicy red plum, red cherry skin, crème de cassis, hints of anise seed, purple flowers and oak. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced with fine-grained tannins before displaying a sensation of petrichor and hints of black tea. The Cabernet Franc glides to a clean, succulent, spicy, peppery finish with lingering red fruit flavors. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Bartinney Private Cellar Hourglass Chardonnay

Impressive from the first sniff, the 2020 Hourglass Chardonnay possesses elegance and grace with delicate aromas of oak spice, apples and sweet melon before delicate citrus blossom aromas waft from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is open-knit and expressive with a round mouthfeel, making me wish this Chardonnay had a bit more acidity to tighten up the mid-palate. The wine ends with a juicy frame and easy-drinking finish. After resting in 50% new French oak, 1,500 bottles were filled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Kleine Zalze Vineyard Selection Cabernet Sauvignon

Compressed on the nose, the 2020 Vineyard Selection Cabernet Sauvignon offers notes of green bell pepper and dried herbs around a core of red fruit aromas that remain firm on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the palate continues with a persistent herbal edge that mingles with succulent, juicy red fruits before notions of cherry skin and red plums vibrate with a fine mineral tension. After maturing for 19 months in French oak barrels, 40% new, 80,000 bottles were filled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Botanica Wines Big Flower Merlot

Ripe, fresh and lifted on the nose, the 2020 Big Flower Merlot starts with plummy and juicy notions that waft with a dusty, mineral essence. Medium to full-bodied, the Merlot is clean and expressive with a firm tannic edge that lingers through the delightfully spicy finish with persistent flavors of dark cherry skin. Only 2,200 bottles were filled after the wine rested in used French oak barrels for about a year. Enjoy it young.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Oldenburg Vineyards Rondekop Stone Axe Syrah

Starting with a spicy and dark red-fruited nose, the 2020 Rondekop Stone Axe Syrah is juicy with red and black peppercorn aromas before soft notions of dusty red flowers waft from the glass. Full-bodied, the palate is ripe, succulent and juicy with balanced acidity before showing notes of soft herbs with dusty tannins. The wine ends with a ripe frame of fruit with lingering peppercorn spice and black plum essence. Only 3,852 bottles were produced after the wine aged for 16 months in a mix of new and used French oak barrels.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Lanzerac Pinotage

Juicy and dark-fruited, the 2019 Pinotage offers a firm nose with soft herbal essences of wild brush with a frame of spiced blackberries and plum reduction. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a firm tannic edge that lifts after a moment, revealing a touch of volatility over the long, spicy finish. The wine spent 15 months in French oak. 40,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Thelema Mountain Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon

Starting with a classic nose of dark fruit and spicy aromas, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon opens to soft yet elegant oak tones with a kiss of smoky essence. Medium-bodied, the wine is balanced on the palate with a softly oaky essence before a bright beam of acid drives the mid-palate. The wine has a tight tannic finish that will benefit from being paired with food. 56,469 bottles were produced after the wine rested for a year and a half in French oak barrels, 45% first fill.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Raats Dolomite Cabernet Franc

Medium ruby in color, the nose is herbal with vibrant red plum and cherry notes that release with spinning in the glass. The 2019 Dolomite Cabernet Franc releases more herbaceous notes with fresh sage, thyme, roasted red bell pepper and mint before dusty red fruits and soft floral essences flutter from the glass. Medium-bodied, the palate is focused with hints of graphite and pencil lead before showing firm gripping tannins, which will allow the wine to remain food friendly for years, and a rounded herbal finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Waterkloof Estate Circumstance Syrah

Fresh, spicy and dark-fruited, the 2019 Circumstance Syrah offers notes of spiced plum compote with juicy tobacco and black spices on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a firm yet balanced structure with fine-grained tannins and a fleshy fruit frame that is fresh and almost sappy. The wine offers layers, showcasing the delightful floral lift from the 100% whole cluster expression before coming to a spicy, lingering finish and tannic edge. Enjoy with food.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 De Morgenzon Chenin Blanc Cap Classique

Made with 6.3% Chardonnay, the 2019 Chenin Blanc Cap Classique opens with classic aromas of yellow apples, wax melon and sweet citrus with a soft nutty essence. Light to medium-bodied, the palate is fresh and softly leesy with crisp acidity, and there's a lingering kiss of phenolic bitterness on the food-friendly finish. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Beyerskloof Synergy

Made from 41% Pinotage, 23% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Syrah, 5% Cinsault and 4% Pinot Noir, the 2019 Synergy is dark ruby in color with lively red fruits and lifted florals that float out of the glass with a soft potpourri essence. Medium to full-bodied and with gripping tannins, the palate is expressive, balanced and delightful. This red blend ends with a fresh, spicy finish. 120,000 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Stellenview Kruger Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Losing the TCA lottery with the first bottle, the second bottle of the 2019 Kruger Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon was in much better shape, opening to a clean and spicy nose of fresh, ripe red and black berries with hints of sweet oak and graphite. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers succulent acidity with lifting tannins, and the spicy, lingering finish has lasting white pepper and brown baking-spice flavors. The wine aged for a year and a half in French oak barrels. 75,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Shiraz

Starting with blackberry, crème de cassis and red and black peppercorn notes, the 2019 Shiraz is big and juicy with hints of leather and turned earth before showing herbal aromas of wild brush, sage and thyme. Medium to full-bodied, the palate shows a dusty and firm tannic frame that should remain food-friendly for years. The wine glides to a spicy and lingering finish with persistent flavors of cedar, cigar box, dried tobacco and red plum reduction. Enjoy with barbecue and flame-grilled meats. Only 13,000 bottles were made after the wine rested for 16 months in French oak, 36% new.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Deux Frères Tribute

The 2019 Tribute is composed of just over half Cabernet Sauvignon with 27% Petit Verdot, 13% Malbec and 7% Shiraz. The nose starts with a soft volatility that escapes from the glass with dusty dark fruit aromas that frame dark cherries elements before hints of spice and baked clay make their way out of the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the wine shows a delightfully spicy core lifted by a beam of acidity and succulent tannins that grip through the finish. Just under 5,000 bottles were made after the wine rested for two years in new and used French oak barrels.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Oldenburg Vineyards Rondekop Per Se

Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2019 Rondekop Per Se starts with an opaque core before showing an open-knit expression with red cherries and plums on the nose. Medium-bodied, the wine turns minty and fresh on the palate, showing delightfully nimble weight as the wine uncoils, and it has subtle flavors of brown baking spices over the lingering finish. The wine matured for 18 months in French oak barrels, 40% first fill. Just under 4,700 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Waterford Estate Estate Chardonnay

Opening to sweet citrus aromas and popcorn kernel essence, the 2018 Estate Chardonnay offers up notes of citrus blossom and lime peel. Light to medium-bodied, this is focused, with sweet citrus flavors of Meyer lemon and key lime pie, and it has a cheerful finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Dornier Malbec

Displaying a deep purple core and an electric pink rim, the 2018 Malbec bursts with blue fruit, espresso and mocha aromas. It is full-bodied, tannic, and juicy, with a delightfully balanced structure and a food-friendly and spicy finish. The wine aged for 18 months in 30% new French oak barrels. 5,500 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Glen Carlou The Collection Cabernet Franc

Oaky and red fruited with hints of spice and dusty red flowers, the 2018 The Collection Cabernet Franc is juicy and firm. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is round and robust on the palate before compressing ever so slightly to show a red-fruited and dusty cherry essence with flavors of plum and oak over the finish. We'll see if the oak will absorb into the wine in time. Just under 4,400 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 16 months in oak.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Simonsig Merindol Syrah

Smoky and juicy with a rustic nose, the 2018 Merindol Syrah offers earthy notes that waft from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the Syrah is spicy with flavors of juicy tobacco that have a firm tannic edge before ending with a peppery finish, showing that the fruit component is starting to lose steam. Drink it over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Idiom Sangiovese

The 2018 Sangiovese starts with a classic nose of bright red fruit with hints of soft herbal undertones. Medium to full-bodied, the wine offers succulent, energetic acidity and a warmer frame with 14% alcohol and flavors of just-ripe red plum and dark cherry, ending with a food-friendly finish. I can see its varietal purity, and it will be perfect for pizza and pasta night.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 De Morgenzon Dmz Syrah

Simple, meaty and savory with notes of peppercorn essence and a red-fruited frame, the 2018 Dmz Syrah is open-knit and ready for action. Medium to full-bodied, the Syrah is fresh and food-friendly with a lingering, slightly spicy finish with lasting flavors of dark cherry skin. 25,000 bottles were produced after the wine rested for a year in used French oak.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Stellenview Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

The nose of the 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon starts with sweet oak aromas of brown baking spices with expressive red fruit notions that are open-knit and accessible with a dusty and floral essence. Full-bodied, the wine is balanced with a delicate mineral tension that offers notions of pencil lead and graphite before succulent, ripe, dark cherry and spiced plum flavors move across the mid-palate. The Cabernet unfolds and reveals additional layers before coming to a fresh, mineral-laced finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Deux Frères Cabernet Sauvignon

Open-knit and expressive with a generous frame of accessible fruit, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon is fresh and spicy in the glass. Full-bodied and firmly tannic, the Cabernet is layered and offers hints of cocoa over the lingering finish. The wine rested for two years in a mix of new and used barrels. Just under 2,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Deux Frères Tribute

Made of 46% Shiraz, 26% Petit Verdot, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Malbec, the 2018 Tribute begins with a juicy, rich and ripe expression of healthy fruits on the nose followed by a soft char note and hints of blackberry skin and bitter dark chocolate. Medium to full-bodied, the palate displays notions of graphite and bitter black tea with a balanced but firm tannic edge. The wine ends with a lingering and spicy finish. Enjoy it over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Brampton Roxton Red Blend

Composed of 58% Petit Verdot, 34% Shiraz and 8% Malbec, the 2018 Roxton Red Blend begins dark and generous in the glass with a broad-shouldered and expressive nose, offering red and black fruit aromas that unfold in juicy layers before savory herb essences and oak spices lift from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is ripe, juicy and balanced, offering a firm tannic edge that persists over the long, spicy finish. Save this one for barbecue night and enjoy it with slow-cooked ribs or brisket.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Keermont Vineyards Pondok Rug Cabernet Franc

Still primary on the nose, the 2017 Pondok Rug Cabernet Franc offers a fresh frame of ripe and picturesque juicy red fruit tones on the nose along with red cherry skin, black raspberry, hints of soft green herbs and subtle notions of sage and oak spice. Full-bodied, the wine is fleshy on the palate with generous tannins and a broad, firm mouthfeel and shows the 15% alcohol on the spicy, lingering finish. This may not last as long as the Syrahs of the same range. Just over 2,200 bottles were filled after the wine rested for 22 months in French oak barrels. Decanting is recommended.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Ken Forrester Three Halves

Made from half Mourvèdre with 25% each of Grenache and Syrah, the 2017 Three Halves starts with a soft leathery notion before ripe, red fruit floats alongside aromas of red and black peppercorn with soft potpourri spices. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is generous, showing the ripeness of the vintage with its shine before the red blend ends with a juicy, rich finish that should drink well for the next few years. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Stellenview Reserve Shiraz

Starting with a soft garnet rim, the 2017 Reserve Shiraz shows an open nose with growing mature notes as the wine sits in the glass. Dark red and black fruit essences mingle with peppercorn spikes, potpourri and old oak as the wine shows its age. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is spicy and focused before firm tannins grip the gum line. It becomes more angular before reaching its smoky, food-friendly finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2016 Neil Ellis Amica Sauvignon Blanc

The 2016 Amica Sauvignon Blanc has a nose that offers aromas of white flowers and citrus blossom, with hints of marshmallow. The medium-bodied wine has a fluffy texture and weight that leads to a soft nutty mouthfeel on the palate and leaves lasting impressions of lemon meringue and graham cracker.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 L'Avenir Single Block Pinotage

The 2019 Single Block Pinotage offers a firm nose with hints of leather, blackberry and soft herbal edges. Medium to full-bodied, there are earthy flavors in the mouth with succulent acidity and a notion reminiscent of an "old cellar." While the wine is showing as fresh as it is going to get right now, I see where this will continue to gain more funky aromas and flavors with time. 8,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Blaauwklippen Vineyards De Blaauwe Klip

A Bordeaux red blend with 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and the remainder of Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot, the 2017 De Blaauwe Klip displays a deep ruby color and offers a soft magenta rim. The nose is open-knit and shows a touch of volatility with a kiss of dried blackberries and a hint of prune skin. Soft oak spices waft from the glass with subtle notes of iodine and baked clay followed by a soft nuance of wild brush and an earthy and dusty essence. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is mineral-driven with notes of graphite and pencil shavings before offering notes of crème de cassis and bitter dark chocolate. The wine concludes with a firm tannic edge and lingering mineral essence that shifts to show a hint of saddle leather over the persistent finish. Enjoy with food.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

2018 Jordan Wine Estate Cobblers Hill

Mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with 17% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc, the 2018 Cobblers Hill is opaque at the core with an open-knit and ready-for-action nose. Full-bodied, the wine is rich and dense with notes of herbal red fruit, blackberry sauce and a hint of oak spice. The red blend ends with soft nutty essence, showing that the wine is meant for speed, not distance. Enjoy over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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88+

2021 B Vintners Red Blend

Made with 27% Pinotage and the remainder split between Grenache and Syrah, the 2021 Red Blend has a fruity, spicy and softly leathery nose with notes of turned earth, cedar and dusty cherry. Medium-bodied and with 13% alcohol, the palate is fresh and earthy and offers firm gripping tannins with energetic acidity that needs time in the bottle to find its stride. I suspect this will drink better after a few years, but it's a tad too tight and angular right now. Give it time.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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88+

2020 Stellenview Grand Vin de Stellenbosch MCC Brut

Beginning with a nose of sweet citrus and lemon-drop aromas, the 2020 Grand Vin de Stellenbosch MCC Brut is open-knit and ready for action. Light to medium-bodied, the palate is fresh and citrusy with a lively mousse before ending with a zesty finish. Only 5,000 bottles were produced from half Chardonnay and half Pinot Noir without the use of oak. Enjoy well chilled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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88+

2018 Miles Mossop Wines Max

Composed of almost half Cabernet Sauvignon with 23% Merlot, 23% Petit Verdot and 7% Cabernet Franc, the 2018 Max begins with an open-knit and ripe nose of fresh juicy blackberries and spiced plums. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers surprising breath and texture before ending with a straightforward finish that is food friendly or drinkable by itself. The wine rested for 22 months in French oak barrels, 40% first fill. Just under 15,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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88

2022 Ken Forrester Pet Nat Chenin Blanc

Fresh, bright and open-knit, the 2022 Pet Nat Chenin Blanc offers lip-smacking notes of pineapple and almond butter with a medium-bodied frame that will please Pet Nat lovers. Offering a straightforward profile with delightful, fresh acidity, I recommend getting this super chilled and enjoying it on a hot summer day. Only 1,300 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Babylonstoren Chenin Blanc

Clean, spicy and bright, the 2022 Chenin Blanc offers yellow apple and wax melon on the nose with subtle hints of almond, honeysuckle and sweet Meyer lemon skin. Medium-bodied and with a kiss of phenolic bitterness, the wine continues with a spicy mid-palate with soft notes of dandelion green, arugula and lemon pith. Enjoy with cheeses, salads and fresh fish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Le Bonheur Chardonnay

Fresh, ripe and mineral driven on the nose with aromas of apple and wax melon, the 2022 Chardonnay is dusty and floral in the glass. Medium-bodied, it has flavors of marshmallow and lemon with a soft oak essence and an element of fine lees before coming to a mineral-laced finish. 30,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Babylonstoren Viognier

Unmistakably Viognier on the nose, the 2022 Viognier starts with notes of sweet cereal grain, peach, sweet melon and apricot with jasmine and honeysuckle aromatics. Medium to full-bodied with a firm, phenolic bitterness, the Viognier possesses a generous weight across the mid-palate before ending with a broad finish. Serve well chilled, and drink young.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Kanonkop Kadette Dry Pinotage Rosé

The 2022 Kadette Dry Pinotage Rosé has a pale pink color with a watery rim. The nose opens to fresh and delightful aromas of strawberry and cherry, with a hint of petrichor and a scent of strawberry lemonade and honeysuckle aromas. Medium-bodied, the palate is acid-driven with fresh crunchy red fruit tones and ends with a succulent, fresh finish. Enjoy by the pool or with fresh salads.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Reyneke Vinehugger Chenin Blanc

Opening to a nose of fresh citrus and hints of almond and marzipan, the 2021 Vinehugger Chenin Blanc displays soft notes of hay and peach rings with notions of wax melon and yellow apple. Medium-bodied and with 13% alcohol, the palate offers a kiss of phenolic bitterness that will allow the wine to remain food friendly for a few more years. This has a balanced, mineral-laced finish. Only 2,000 bottles were produced from organic Chenin Blanc grapes.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Longridge Wine Estate The Emily Chardonnay Pinot Noir

Mostly Chardonnay with some Pinot Noir for color, the 2021 The Emily Chardonnay Pinot Noir is fresh and softly mineral on the nose with aromas of dusty lemons and strawberry seed. Made without the use of oak, the wine is medium-bodied with a clean, fresh and uncomplicated palate, and then delivers a simple and lingering finish. 100,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Longridge Wine Estate Concrete and Clay Chardonnay

Truth in advertising, the 2021 Concrete and Clay Chardonnay is unoaked, offering delightful aromas of sweet lemon and yellow apple with hints of citrus blossom. Medium-bodied and mineral-driven, the palate has dusty citrus flavors before ending with a waxy mouthfeel and mineral-laced finish. 3,600 bottles were produced after the wine rested for eight months on the lees.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Bartinney Private Cellar Sauvignon Blanc

Starting with sweet citrus and fresh apple skin, the 2021 Sauvignon Blanc offers notes of freshly opened citrus blossoms and ripe pear with hints of lemon skin. Medium-bodied, the palate provides a slightly prickly mouthfeel with energetic acidity that races to the finish, leaving behind flavors of white spice and mineral-laced lemons. 6,500 bottles were made without the use of oak.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Bellingham Wines Homestead Chardonnay

Citrusy and sweet-fruited, the 2021 Homestead Chardonnay displays a line of bright citrus, yellow apples and dusty lemon blossom on the nose. Medium-bodied, the palate is straightforward, with an easy-drinking nature meant for speed, not distance, before ending with an uncomplicated finish. Approximately 60% of the wine was fermented in older French oak barrels and rested for nine months before being blended and bottled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Waterkloof Estate Waterkloof Sauvignon Blanc

Starting with a mineral-driven and citrus-laced nose, the 2021 Waterkloof Sauvignon Blanc displays aromas of yellow apples with hints of toasted almonds and marzipan. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a medium-weight expression with an open-knit, ready-for-action finish. It will be better with food. Drink it young.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Eikendal Janina Unwooded Chardonnay

Truth in advertising, 2021 Janina Unwooded Chardonnay was made without any oak and offers fresh aromas of white peach, yellow apple skin and notions of juicy pear on the nose. Medium-bodied, with a clean and expressive palate, this delightful unwooded Chardonnay will pair effortlessly with a wide variety of dishes or drink well as an aperitif. Only 30,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Glenelly Estate The Glass Collection Unwooded Chardonnay

Closed under a screw cap, the 2021 The Glass Collection Unwooded Chardonnay is focused, bright and mineral-driven with layers of citrus and leesy notes. Medium-bodied, the palate offers a delicate rocky, mineral essence and lingers with a bright, uncomplicated finish. This is meant for speed, not distance. Get it well chilled and drink it young.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Villiera Wines Stand Alone Gamay Noir

Open-knit and approachable, the 2021 Stand Alone Gamay Noir offers aromas of cherry with red spiced tea, rhubarb and dusty florals on the nose. Medium-bodied, the wine has bright acidity that races over the palate, and it has a food-friendly and crushable finish. This was made from 30% whole cluster grapes and spent 10 months in a combination of amphora and oak. This is meant for speed, not distance. I recommend giving it a good chill and consuming it young. Only 1,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Waterkloof Estate Seriously Cool Chenin Blanc

Bright, juicy and citrus-laced, the 2021 Seriously Cool Chenin Blanc offers yellow apple and lemon blossom essences in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, it is crisp with acidity and provides a balanced structure, and it has a lively, clean and zesty finish. 23,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Jordan Wine Estate Unoaked Chardonnay

Starting with citrus, yellow apple and underripe peach aromas, the 2021 Unoaked Chardonnay is lemony and bright. Medium-bodied, the palate is lively with acidity before ending with a fresh, clean finish. This was made without the use of oak. Just over 22,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Simonsig Chenin Blanc

Straightforward on the nose, the 2021 Chenin Blanc offers fresh yellow apple skin, Meyer lemon and soft aromas of grilled peaches and toasted almonds. Medium-bodied, the palate is uncomplicated and balanced, and there's an easy-drinking finish. It's ready for action.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Mulderbosch Sauvignon Blanc

Beginning with notes of lime candy, sweet citrus and underripe pineapple, the 2021 Sauvignon Blanc offers notes of citrus blossom and green apple skin. Medium-bodied, the wine is nimble and refreshing, offering a balanced structure before ending with a citrus-laced finish. About a third of the wine was matured on the lees in neutral French oak for six months.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Ken Forrester Petit Pinotage

Surprisingly better than the Merlot of the same range, the 2021 Petit Pinotage offers aromas of sweet red fruit and hints of soft, subtle spices on the nose. Medium-bodied, the palate remains bright and spicy before finishing with delightfully crunchy red fruit.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Mulderbosch Chenin Blanc (Steen Op Hout)

Beginning with a classic frame of citrus and apple aromas, 2021 Chenin Blanc (Steen Op Hout) offers a bright and expressive essence of waxy peach skin and citrus blossom. Medium-bodied, the wine shows a balanced structure with a pleasant weight that ends with a food-friendly finish and a soft lingering kiss of phenolic bitterness.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Stellenview Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Sauvignon Blanc

Beginning with a flinty and sweet citrus nose, the 2021 Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Sauvignon Blanc offers ripe and tart citrus tones of gooseberry and kiwi fruit. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fleshy with a spicy and leesy texture before ending with a straightforward finish. 20,000 bottles were produced without the use of oak.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Waterford Estate Rose-Mary

Beginning with a pale salmon core, the 2021 Rose-Mary rosé offers a zesty and clean nose with fresh citrus and spiced strawberries. Light-bodied, the mouthfeel is energetic and lively with food-friendly acidity that melts away to reveal notions of sweet citrus, white cherry and apricot. This has a straightforward finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Warwick Estate The First Lady Cabernet Sauvignon

Straightforward and red-fruited, the 2021 The First Lady Cabernet Sauvignon offers notes of turned earth and gravel with dusty cherries and plum before notes of wilted flowers and hints of leather pop out of the glass. Medium-bodied and with 13.5% alcohol on the label, the palate is uncomplicated yet shows a balanced structure that ends cleanly. This keenly priced Cabernet will be perfect for pizza and pasta night.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 De Morgenzon DMZ Rosé

The 2021 DMZ Rosé it's about half Grenache with 31% Mourvèdre, 16% Shiraz, 3% Viognier and 1% Chenin Blanc. The nose is fresh and reveals a mineral and lemon essence with a medium-bodied structure before ending with a brisk, uncomplicated finish. The wine aged for a minimum of 10 months on the lees before bottling. Just under 16,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Thelema Mountain Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc

Starting with a potent nose of lime and gooseberry, the 2021 Sauvignon Blanc offers notes of blackcurrant bud with candied lemon meringue and herbs. Medium-bodied, the palate is citrus-driven with a beaming acid backbone before coming to a pungent lime and herbal finish with hints of smoke.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 De Morgenzon Dmz Chenin Blanc

The 2021 Dmz Chenin Blanc is classic and fresh, with a youthful and vibrant expression of subtle notes of decomposed granite and citrus blossoms. Medium-bodied, the wine is mineral-focused on the palate, with a juicy lift of melon and apple flavors that mingle with sweet citrus and white peach. The wine aged in 90% wood and 10% concrete egg. 23,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Babylonstoren Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon is straightforward and red-fruited, with hints of fern and sage and a sweet herbal tone before red florals waft from the nose. Medium-bodied, the palate compresses to show a tight and compact frame, while succulent acidity races across the mid-palate to reveal flavors of red cherry skin and strawberry stem before ending with a quick, dusty finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Babylonstoren Babel

The first bottle was corked, but the second bottle of the 2021 Babel is red-fruited with dusty black plum with hints of red and purple flowers with a delightful mineral essence. Medium to full-bodied, flavors of black cherry, dusty blackberry and dusty flower petals mingle with notions of turned earth with a soft hint of potpourri. The wine has a spicy, mineral-driven finish and should drink decently until its fifth birthday.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 De Morgenzon Dmz Chardonnay

Made with a splash of Roussanne, the 2021 Dmz Chardonnay is compressed on the nose with subdued citrus and a soft mineral essence. Medium-bodied, the palate shows surprising weight and texture before offering a kiss of phenolic bitterness and ending with a lingering, clean finish. Just under 15,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Reyneke Vinehugger Organic Red

Mostly Syrah with 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2020 Vinehugger Organic Red is ripe on the nose, offering subtle herbal notes of pine with red plum, red and black peppercorn and a hint of redcurrant. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is firm with gripping tannins before flavors of bitter dark chocolate and black tea join with juicy and spicy flavors. This red blend has a lingering and easy-drinking finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Haskell Dombeya Merlot

The 2020 Dombeya Merlot offers aromas of pencil shavings and graphite followed by plum and a dusty and savory edge. Medium to full-bodied, the wine clamps down on the palate, displaying drying and firm tannins and notions of sage and black plum skin before ending with a mineral-laced finish. I suspect it will loosen with a bit more time in the bottle. Enjoy with food.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Le Bonheur Cabernet Sauvignon

Made with 15% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon is minty and herbal on the nose with dark red fruit aromas that sway with a juicy and ripe essence. Medium to full-bodied, the wine offers flavors of mint and eucalyptus on the palate, while the fruit profile compresses to show less fruit and more herbs as it ends with a tight and slightly smoky finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Stellenview Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Merlot

Almost opaque in the glass, the 2020 Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Merlot is dark-fruited with piercing herbal notes of sage and thyme before notions of turned earth and graphite express with plum. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced with succulent acidity and ripe tannins that lead to a firm, straightforward conclusion.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Haskell Dombeya Fenix

Composed of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Cabernet Franc and 16% Merlot, the 2020 Dombeya Fenix opens without much herbaceous character but offers hints of dark red fruits, a mineral-laced nose and fresh expression. Medium to full-bodied, the red blend is spicy with healthy, ripe fruit flavors that meld to show a food-friendly finish. Give it a try.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Bartinney Private Cellar Chardonnay

With a clean and proper nose, the 2020 Chardonnay offers hints of sweet oak, apples and soft notes of almond butter. Medium-bodied, the wine shrinks on the palate with soft hints of oak, showing a more petite frame than the nose suggests, ending with a mild and nutty finish. 11,000 bottles were filled after the wine rested in French oak, 30% new. Drink it young.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Jordan Wine Estate Black Magic Merlot

Plummy with just-ripe red fruits, the 2020 Black Magic Merlot offers hints of green herbs, sage and black tea. Medium-bodied, the wine is ripe on the palate, with balanced acidity and a plummy, primary fruit profile. The wine ends with a spicy, softly herbal finish. The wine aged for a year and a half in a mix of new and used French oak. Just over 20,000 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 McFarlane Wines Chenin Blanc Monday's Child

Straightforward on the nose with an open-knit expression, the 2020 Chenin Blanc Monday's Child is ready to drink with some citrus and apple notes with hints of toasted almonds and traces of marzipan. Medium-bodied, the wine is balanced but needs more life-giving acidity to allow the wine to age longer. It offers a generous mouthfeel with a rich texture that should be consumed in youth. The wine aged on the fine lees for seven months. 1,200 bottles were filled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Glenelly Estate The Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2020 The Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon offers dark-fruited aromas and a bright frame of juicy blackberry, dark cherry and dusty floral essence and hints of mint and menthol. Medium to full-bodied, the wine unfolds on the palate, exposing a firm, gripping, tannic edge over the lingering and bold finish. Enjoy young.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Saxenburg Private Collection Chardonnay

Straightforward and juicy, the 2020 Private Collection Chardonnay displays hints of charred apples and oak on the nose with a soft notion of lemon panna cotta. Medium-bodied, the wine has energetic acidity with a lively mouthfeel before concluding with an uncomplicated finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Oldenburg Vineyards Rhodium

Composed of 60% Cabernet Franc, 30% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2020 Rhodium starts with a dusty and mineral essence that slowly releases to show subtle, subdued notes of red berries and a straightforward spicy aroma. Medium to full-bodied, the palate loses steam as the wine uncoils, ending with an uncomplicated finish. 6,114 bottles were produced after the wine aged for a year and a half in French oak barrels, just over 25% new.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Mooiplaas Cabernet Sauvignon

Firm and darken in the glass, the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon opens with a nose that is open-knit and spicy with a soft pruney essence. Full-bodied, the palate is firmly tannic with a spicy mouthfeel before ending with a lingering finish. The wine aged for 20 months in French oak barrels, 25% first fill. 6,600 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Kanonkop Kadette Pinotage

The 2020 Kadette Pinotage is rich with dark red fruits, hints of spiced plum compote, crème de cassis, black raspberry and earthy tones of graphite on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is juicy with flavors of black cherry, hints of red plum and subtle spices, ending with a subtly spiced, straightforward finish. Enjoy over the next few years. This delivers well for the price.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Waterford Estate Pecan Stream Pebble Hill

A kitchen-sink blend of 23% Shiraz, 21% Mourvèdre, 12% Cabernet Franc, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot, 8% Grenache, 6% Malbec, 6% Sangiovese and 5% Tempranillo, the 2020 Pecan Stream Pebble Hill displays a spicy and red-fruited nose with dusty florals. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is balanced with red and black peppercorns and spiced plum compote before notions of a soft mineral essence merge with delicate herbal notes, ending with a clean, uncomplicated finish. The wine aged in older French oak barrels. 51,600 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Deux Frères Mourvèdre

Starting with a juicy nose and red-fruited core, the 2020 Mourvèdre offers notes of turned earth, sweet red spice and dusty flowers. Medium-bodied, the wine offers flavors of black raspberry with subtle tones of bitter black tea on the palate, ending with a straightforward, fresh finish. The wine rested for two years in old French oak barrels. 2,400 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Miles Mossop Wines The Introduction Red

Made with a 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Cinsault, 11% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 The Introduction Red bursts with juicy ripe red fruits and hints of herbs on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is lively and fresh with a plushy mouthfeel before offering a balanced structure, and it ends with a soft, lingering finish. The wine aged for 16 months in used barrels. Just over 16,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Cape Garden Cabernet Sauvignon

Black and red-fruited with oak aromas and mineral essence, the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon displays hints of graphite and pencil shavings with notes of blackberry skin. Full-bodied and displaying fine-grained tannins, the Cabernet will remain food-friendly for about five more years. It ends with a spicy, mineral-laced finish. The wine rested for a year and a half before bottling. About 130,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Stellenview Kruger Family Reserve Sauvignon Blanc

Mineral-driven with a flinty nose, the 2020 Kruger Family Reserve Sauvignon Blanc offers citrus elements of lime skin and Meyer lemon. Medium-bodied, the palate leads to a delightful texture and weight across the mid-palate before winding to a refreshing finish without overbearing acidity. It's food friendly and ready for action. 25,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Kaapzicht Pinotage Rosé

Fresh and nimble, the 2020 Pinotage Rosé offers crunchy red fruit on the nose with floral essences and hints of lemon and lime. Light-bodied, fun and fresh, the succulent rosé ends with a crisp, refreshing finish. 15,000 bottles were produced. Drink well-chilled over the next year.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Warwick Estate The First Lady Pinotage

Medium ruby in color, the nose of the 2020 The First Lady Pinotage is fresh, open-knit and red-fruited with notes of cherry, strawberry and red plum before hints of turned earth and leather aromas move in. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers a balanced and fresh mouthfeel, then food-friendly tannins announce themselves with notes of tree bark and black tea on the juicy finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Saxenburg Private Collection Cabernet Sauvignon

Made with 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec, the 2020 Private Collection Cabernet Sauvignon offers green herbal essences with red fruit in a compressed smaller frame. Medium-bodied, the fruit profile remains in the red category with notions of tart cherry, red plum and juicy currants before showing succulent tannins. The wine continues with a soft herbal edge before coming to a sweet, red-fruited finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Vriesenhof Vineyards Pinot Noir

Starting with the tart aromas of just-ripe cherries, the 2020 Pinot Noir displays soft notions of forest floor with a hint of oak on the nose. Medium-bodied, the palate is clean, offering bright acidity that drives through to the zesty finish. 3,200 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Kanonkop Kadette Cape Blend

The 2020 Kadette Cape Blend is a blend of 43% Pinotage, 33% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. The nose is straightforward and red-fruited while offering aromas of dusty black plums, bitter dark chocolate, turned earth and gravel. Medium to full-bodied, the wine has a mineral-driven palate, with less emphasis on fruit, before ending with a quick finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Vriesenhof Vineyards Barrel Fermented Chardonnay

Truth in advertising, the 2020 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay offers a ripe and oaky nose with notes of oatmeal, baked apples and peach purée. Medium-bodied, the palate shrinks to show more texture and weight in the mouth, needing a touch more acidity to hold it all together. This has a spicy and oak-driven finish. The wine spent about a year in French oak, 50% first fill. Only 3,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Ken Forrester The Misfits Grenache

Made from two barrels, one from Stellenbosch and the other from Piekenierskloof, the 2020 The Misfits Grenache is red-fruited with hints of reduction and potpourri on the nose. Medium-bodied, the wine expresses roses and spiced orange rind that glide alongside sticky tannins before ending with a clean, food-friendly finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Dornier Merlot

Plummy and offering soft aromas of sweet tomatoes, the 2019 Merlot is juicy, dusty and ripe. Medium to full-bodied, with spicy notes on the open-knit palate, this should drink well for the next few years. The Merlot aged for 18 months in French oak barrels. 8,000 bottles produced. Drink over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Metzger Family Wines Montane Chenin Blanc

Darker in color than the Maritime Chenin Blanc, the 2019 Montane Chenin Blanc offers a bolder and more expressive nose with generous citrus notions that verge on almost creamy elements of lemon curd and peach yogurt. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is ready for action before reaching a softly leesy and spicy finish. This aged on the lees for nine months in barrels. 3,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Boplaas Touriga Nacional Family Reserve

The 2019 Touriga Nacional Family Reserve is dark-fruited with a touch of soft reduction and leafy essence in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the Touriga Nacional is firm and juicy while offering a straightforward finish and will benefit from additional time in the bottle. The wine rested for about a year in a mix of new and used French oak barrels. 3,500 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Ken Forrester Sparklehorse

Made from 100% Chenin Blanc, the 2019 Sparklehorse starts with bright citrus aromas, green apple and Meyer lemon before offering a soft, leesy note that lingers on the nose. Medium-bodied and with lively acidity, it has a zesty mouthfeel on the palate with a soft prickle of phenolic bitterness and a bright, lip-smacking, food-friendly finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Metzger Family Wines Maritime Chenin Blanc

Opening to a nose of sweet citrus and yellow apples, the 2019 Maritime Chenin Blanc offers aromas of wax melon with an open-knit and juicy frame of sweet tart candies. Medium-bodied, the palate shows a delightful and texturally pleasing mouthfeel before concluding with a citrus-laced finish and lingering essence of sea spray. The wine aged for nine months on the lees. 3,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Red Blend

Composed of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2019 Red Blend is ruby at its core with aromas of bright cherry, tart plum and hints of dusty cassis and redcurrant. Medium-bodied, the blend offers notes of crunchy red fruit flavors, fresh florals and turned earth before showing a balanced mid-palate with vibrant acidity, ending with a delightfully lingering red-fruited finish and soft tannic edge. 19,000 bottles were filled after resting 15 months in French oak, 25% new.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 KWV The Mentors Cabernet Franc

Starting with a red-fruited and spicy nose, the 2019 The Mentors Cabernet Franc is open-knit and beginning to show its freshness fading. Medium-bodied and with an herbal edge, the Cabernet Franc is straightforward on the palate, with an uncomplicated finish. Just over 8,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Rainbow's End Merlot

Straightforward and red-fruited with hints of herbs and dark cherry, the 2019 Merlot also offers aromas of bitter dark chocolate and red plums. Medium to full-bodied and with 14% alcohol, the palate provides firm tannins that grip the gum line before turning to a subtly spicy and uncomplicated finish. Just under 7,700 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Kaapzicht Suidooster Shiraz

The 2019 Suidooster Shiraz offers notes of peppercorn with red fruits and spicy potpourri essence. Medium to full-bodied, the Shiraz is structured yet offers a lighter, compact frame before ending with a straightforward finish. Enjoy young.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 KWV The Mentors Pinotage

Open-knit with aromas of dried plum, the 2019 The Mentors Pinotage offers a juicy and fruity nose with elements of wilted plum blossom and hints of brown baking spices. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is slightly underripe with a firm tannic edge before ending with an uncomplicated finish. Just under 10,000 bottles were made after the wine rested for a year and a half in barrel.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Waterkloof Estate Circumstance Mourvedre

Opening with aromas of dusty flower petals and smoked cherries, the 2019 Circumstance Mourvedre is slightly spicy in the glass. Medium-bodied, the palate offers a dusty core of graphite and mineral tension before displaying a firm tannic edge. It will be better enjoyed with food.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Ken Forrester Pat's Garden Reserve

Bottled under screw cap, the 2019 Pat's Garden Reserve offers a red-fruited and herbal nose, with some minty and menthol aromas. Medium to full-bodied, the wine shrinks on the palate, leading to a firm tannic edge over the uncomplicated finish. Drink over the next year or two.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 La Motte Cabernet Sauvignon

Starting with aromas of dried herbs and roasted pepper skin, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon offers notes of dark cherry with dusty flowers and graphite on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the palate shows ripe fruit with succulent acidity and lifted tannins, and the finish is spicy, food friendly and slightly lean. The wine aged for two years in French oak barrels, 50% new. 48,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Alto Alto Rouge

The 2019 Alto Rouge is about a third Cabernet Franc with 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 15% Syrah and 8% Petit Verdot. The nose starts with ripe, red-fruited and herbal aromas before notes of pencil shavings and graphite waft from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, the palate shows a just-ripe fruit condition with bright acidity before ending with a quick, straightforward finish that compresses with a tight, tannic edge. 450,000 bottles were made after resting in a mix of 90% French and 10% American oak for 14 to 16 months.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Beyerskloof Traildust

Made from about a third each of Pinotage, Cinsault and Pinot Noir, the 2019 Traildust is slightly reductive on the nose with hints of sulfur. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers spicy notes of black cherry skin and red peppercorn with a hint of worn leather before juicy fruit flavors appear on the palate. Decanting is recommended here. 14,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Daniel Pesat Wine My Story Cabernet Sauvignon

Herbal and green on the nose, the 2019 My Story Cabernet Sauvignon offers dusty red fruit tones with notions of tart cherry and sage. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is balanced, with dusty tannins, a persistent green herbaceous character and lingering flavors of pomegranate and pine on the slightly underripe finish. Only 800 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Ken Forrester Renegade

The 2019 Renegade is a GSM blend with bright red fruits with a primary focus with space potpourri notes and red and black peppercorn essence. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fresh, bright and spicy, delivering a pleasing yet straightforward finish. Enjoy with pizza, pasta or burgers.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Mulderbosch Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc

Offering soft aromas of slightly stewed cherry skin with herbal notes, the 2019 Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc shows a slightly smudged expression. Medium-bodied, the palate displays lifted tannins, while the fruit profile is beginning to evolve, leaving me wanting more freshness from the wine. The wine aged for a year and a half in French oak barrels, 40% first fill. Only 5,400 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon is mineral-driven on the nose with hints of baked earth, graphite and pencil shavings before soft notes of dusty red fruits, black cherry and redcurrant waft out of the glass with a soft herbal aroma of wild brush. Medium-bodied, the palate is balanced, fresh and succulent before turning more mineral as the wine evolves over the mid-palate, showing tones of oak over the lingering, spicy finish. 16,000 bottles were produced after the wine rested for 17 months in French oak, 40% new.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Thelema Mountain Vineyards Shiraz

Herbal and minty with hints of wild brush, the 2018 Shiraz offers aromas of dark cherry and plum and blackberry essences in the glass. Medium to full-bodied and with a firm tannic edge, the palate offers flavors of dried herbs before ending with notes of tart plum and potpourri over the spicy finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Clos Malverne Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve

Starting with a soft floral edge with hints of forest floor and green herbs, the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve stays within the red fruit category. Medium to full-bodied, the wine offers succulent acidity, tart red cherry skin and flavors of thyme and sage that will likely please Chilean Cabernet drinkers. It concludes with hints of pencil shavings, graphite and notes of tart red plum. Only 5,000 bottles were produced. Decanting is recommended here.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Idiom Zinfandel

Starting with an herbal nose that is more herbaceous than fruity, the 2018 Zinfandel offers a minty and menthol essence. The wine has a more petite frame where the fruit never shows vibrantly. Medium-bodied, the acid is rather poignant, and there are notes of tree leaf, herbal tea and tobacco before ending with soft red fruit notes and a kiss of vanilla. 5,300 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Simonsig Tiara

Composed of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Tiara opens to a red-fruited and mineral nose with elements of pencil lead, dusty cherry skin and plum essences. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is firm and tight, offering a strict tannic edge that firms up over the gripping, mineral-driven finish. Drink over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Bartinney Private Cellar Cabernet Sauvignon

Open-knit and hitting its stride with clipped fruit, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon is beginning to show its age, with fruit condition at its peak. The nose is fresh but with a slight hint of prune. Medium to full-bodied, the wine clamps down with tight tannins on the palate that drive through the finish. Hopefully, by the time the tannins loosen, some fruit will still be left. 10,000 were filled after the wine rested for a year and a half in French oak barrels, of which 50% were new.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Vriesenhof Vineyards Kallista

Open-knit and expressive on the nose, the 2017 Kallista is juicy with dark red fruits, and it has a dusty, oaky frame. Medium to full-bodied, the wine offers a firm mouthfeel before concluding with a firm tannic edge with grip through the finish, leaving behind a spicy and mineral-driven sensation on the aftertaste. This blend of 40% Cabernet Franc, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot spent a year in 50% new French oak. 11,500 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2016 Quoin Rock Shiraz Stellenbosch

Showing evolution in the glass, the 2016 Shiraz Stellenbosch offers black fruits with red peppercorn essence before a stewed cherry essence with wilted flowers emanate from the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is open-knit and accessible while showing a nutty and plummy flavor before ending with an uncomplicated finish. Drink over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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NV Villiera Wines Tradition Brut

Beginning fresh and bright in the glass, the NV Tradition Brut offers a clean, citrus-driven nose with green apple and brioche elements. Medium-bodied, the palate provides energetic acidity before winding down to a crisp, easy-drinking finish. This was made with 70% Chardonnay and 30% Pinot Noir that spent 18 months on the lees. 150,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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NV Longridge Wine Estate MCC Brut

Starting with a fresh, clean and citrus-driven nose, the NV MCC Brut offers bright acidity with a waxy and leesy mouthfeel. Light to medium-bodied, the palate is clean, correct and food friendly before coming to a lingering, citrus-laced finish. 1,000 bottles were produced of this sparkler, which was made without dosage.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Jordan Wine Estate Sophia

Composed of two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and one-third Merlot, the 2017 Sophia is generous in the glass and shows the shine of the vintage beginning to fade. With nowhere to hide, the fruit condition shifts more stewed, with soft oak-tinged notions, black cherry skin and dusty prune on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the mouthfeel is generous, offering considerable weight. At the same time, the freshness begins to degrade to dried and slightly stewed fruit flavors that leave me craving more freshness and acidity. The wine ends with a quick finish. Just under 29,000 bottles were made after the wine rested for 26 months in oak.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Ken Forrester Petit Sauvignon Blanc

The 2022 Petit Sauvignon Blanc begins with aromas of sweet-tart candies and fresh green herbs on the nose. Medium-bodied, easy-drinking and uncomplicated, the wine ends with a straightforward finish meant for speed, not distance. Enjoy well chilled and as soon as possible.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Stellenview Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Rosé

Fresh, fruity and citrus-driven, the 2022 Grand Vin de Stellenbosch Rosé is made from half Shiraz and half Clairette Blanche. Light to medium-bodied, flavors of strawberry lemonade and yellow cherry mingle with hints of bubblegum and banana before ending with a quick finish. Drink up.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Vriesenhof Vineyards Unwooded Chardonnay

Beginning with fresh peachy notes, the 2022 Unwooded Chardonnay offers aromas of wax melon and dusty citrus blossoms. Medium-bodied, the palate is straightforward and open-knit, offering a pleasant texture, but it lacks typicity before coming to a ripe yet simple finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 De Morgenzon Dmz Sauvignon Blanc

Opening with a straightforward nose of sweet citrus, key lime pie and sweet-tart candy, the 2022 Dmz Sauvignon Blanc is medium-bodied with a fresh and clean citrus-laced finish. This is meant for speed, not distance. Drink it young. Just under 15,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 Ken Forrester Petit Chenin Blanc

The nose of the 2022 Petit Chenin Blanc starts with waxy sweet citrus and yellow apples. Medium-bodied and with a kiss of phenolic bitterness, the palate is uncomplicated and offers a soft chalky note over the straightforward finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Meerlust Chardonnay

Rich, round and glossy with an open-knit expression, the 2021 Chardonnay starts with a sweet-fruited nose of yellow apples and a hint of oak essence. Medium-bodied, the palate is straightforward with a subdued fruit profile before ending with soft citrus tones and oak essence on the expedited finish. Drink over the next year.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Ken Forrester Petit Cabernet Sauvignon

Meant for speed, not distance, the 2021 Petit Cabernet Sauvignon offers a soft herbal essence with a fresh frame of cherry and crunchy red fruit aromas in the glass. Medium-bodied, the palate is dusty with supple tannins that will remain food-friendly for the following year. It's a smaller-framed Cabernet meant for pizza and pasta night. Don't overthink it.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Nuiba Wines First Post

Made from 75% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Sémillon, the 2021 First Post opens to ripe marzipan and lemon curd aromas with yellow apples and candle wax notes. Medium-bodied, the wine seems to be pulled in two directions with some surprising weight, but it is a little overripe. This has a spicy lingering finish and a slightly nutty aftertaste. The wine spent six months on the lees. 900 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Aaldering Pinotage Rosé

Opening to a soft pink core, the 2021 Pinotage Rosé is open-knit with a notion of dusty red flowers that sway with bright citrus and slightly spicy elements. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is firm and will be food-friendly for another year or two. Get it well-chilled and drink it quickly if you must. 3,000 bottles produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Miles Mossop Wines Chapter Four Sauvignon Blanc

Starting with a fresh and vibrant, citrus-laced nose, the 2021 Chapter Four Sauvignon Blanc offers hints of green herbs with citrus blossom, sage and blackcurrant bud notes. Medium-bodied and with 13.5% alcohol, the palate is clean and acid-driven with a fresh beam of bright acidity that drives the food-friendly finish. Drink over the next few years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Clos Malverne Sauvignon Blanc

Beginning with notions of sweet tart candy, underripe pineapple, white peach skin and citrus, the 2021 Sauvignon Blanc is straightforward and citrus-driven. Medium-bodied, the palate is uncomplicated, with tinges of green herbs and a tart finish. The wine aged for six months on the lees without the use of wood. 20,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Meerlust Pinot Noir

The nose of the 2020 Pinot Noir begins with a softly reductive essence in the glass, while persistent swirling allows the aromas of red fruit to lift with notions of turned earth. The wine is medium-bodied and has a tart and tannic mid-palate, and the finish leaves me wanting more complexity and layers to push my score higher. The wine rested in French oak barrels for 10 months. Only 24,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Survivor Wines Cabernet Sauvignon

Over-extracted and juicy with a sweet red-fruited nose and hints of herbal essences, the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon is open-knit. Medium to full-bodied and with firm tannic grip, the wine offers a kiss of residual sugar on the palate and is meant for speed, not distance. If this is still in your collection, it's time to drink up. The wine rested for 15 months in all French oak, 20% new. 9,402 bottles were filled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Saxenburg Private Collection Pinotage

Beginning with hints of leather and tart, ripe fruit essence, the 2020 Private Collection Pinotage offers hints of horse saddle and funk. Medium-bodied, this will please the funky and earthy wine seekers out there, as it walks the line between noticeable and too much funky essence. The wine spent 18 months in used barrels. Just under 5,900 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Kleine Zalze Project Z Sauvignon Blanc

Showing more of a New Zealand style, the 2020 Project Z Sauvignon Blanc offers expressive notes of blackcurrant bud, grapefruit and green bean with soft asparagus notes. Light to medium-bodied and with 12.5% alcohol, laser-sharp acidity beams across the palate with a touch of lees, giving some texture and weight to the mid-palate, culminating with a lean, green herbal finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Oldenburg Vineyards Cabernet Franc

Starting with a rather clipped nose, the 2019 Cabernet Franc has none of the herbal notes that Cabernet Franc is known for. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is juicy and red-fruited with firm tannins before ending with a spicy finish. The wine aged for 18 months in French oak barrels, 29% new. Just over 14,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Simonsig Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz

Bottled under screw cap with notes of reduction, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz offers aromas of dark fruits with black and red peppercorn essence. Medium-bodied and with 13.5% alcohol, notes of roasted red pepper with spicy cherry skin mingle with flavors of bitter dark chocolate. As the wine uncoils, it shows tight mineral tension and a lingering tannic edge over the quick finish. Enjoy it with barbecue.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Thelema Mountain Vineyards Merlot

Starting with an herbal and plummy nose, the 2019 Merlot offers dark cherry skin and sage aromas. Medium-bodied, the wine compresses on the palate to show a firm tannic edge with layers of herbs in spice before coming to a quick finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Spier "21 Gables" Pinotage

A statistical inevitability, the first bottle was struck with TCA. The second bottle of the 2018 "21 Gables" Pinotage showed better with juicy notes of confectioned red fruits with sweet oak tones. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is open-knit with a firm, tannic edge that ends with a quick, uncomplicated finish. The wine rested for 20 months in a mix of French, American and Hungarian oak barrels. 70,000 bottles were produced. This is meant for speed, not distance; drink up.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Blaauwklippen Vineyards Zinfandel

The 2018 Zinfandel starts with dusty plum notes and fallen autumn leaves before bramble fruit compote, cranberry and chocolate-covered pomegranate waft from the nose. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is fresh, balanced and uncomplicated and displays a kiss of volatility over the straightforward finish. 15,000 bottles were made after the wine rested in French oak for 12 months, 27% new.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Fleur du Cap Merlot Unfiltered

With plump and ripe fruit on the nose, the 2017 Merlot Unfiltered is juicy and straightforward. Medium-bodied and with a balanced mid-palate, the Merlot ends with an uncomplicated and clean finish. Drink for the next couple of years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Clos Malverne MCC Ellie Shiraz Rosé

Starting with a salmon-pink color with a soft hue of orange at the rim, the 2017 MCC Ellie Shiraz Rosé opens to bright and spicy reductive tones in the glass with notes of underripe green apple, sweet mint and spiced grapefruit. Light to medium-bodied, the palate is spicy with bright acidity, which seems to be in multiple directions, offering flavors of apple cider and eucalyptus leaves before coming to a food-friendly, interesting and slightly confusing finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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87?

2020 Villiera Wines Monro Merlot

Starting with a dark-fruited nose and a sappy and plummy essence, the 2020 Monro Merlot is generous with a green herbaceous frame. Medium-bodied, the palate offers a firm tannic edge before being pulled in multiple directions, leaving me wanting better balance and more freshness to push my score higher. The wine spent 18 months in 65% new French oak. 2,400 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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87?

2019 Mooiplaas Watershed Pinot Noir

I feel indifferent about the 2019 Watershed Pinot Noir as I stretch to find its varietal expression. Medium-bodied, the wine offers simple cherry notes before oddly ending with a broad, uncomplicated finish. 3,500 bottles were made. Drink over the next year or two.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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87?

2018 Idiom Viognier

The 2018 Viognier is peachy and ripe-fruited with notes of marzipan, fresh pineapple and ripe yellow apple skin. The wine is straightforward on the palate, with a kiss of sweetness and phenolic bitterness, showing a broadly structured and weighted mid-palate. The Viognier ends with a floral and sweet citrus finish with an ongoing nuttiness to the aftertaste. Drink it well chilled.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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87?

2017 Hartenberg Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Open-knit and expressive, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon shows the generous vintage with notes of dried fruits, soft prune and wilted purple flowers on the nose. Full-bodied and with a firm tannic edge, the wine offers juicy acidity on the mid-palate before ending with an inky, drying finish. It rested for 19 months in French oak barrels, 50% new. Just under 33,000 bottles produced. Drink it over the next couple of years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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87?

2017 Stellenview Kruger Family Reserve Chardonnay

Open-knit and expressive, the 2017 Kruger Family Reserve Chardonnay is showing persistent nutty notes with a firm oaky presence. Medium-bodied with persevering marzipan and sautéed almond flavors, the palate lacks the freshness, brightness and energetic acidity to push my score higher. The Chardonnay ends with a quick oak-driven finish. Drink now.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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87?

2017 Stellenview Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Beginning with a garnet rim and soft hints of truffle and mushroom on the nose, the 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon offers dark red cherry skin and wilted plum aromas with turned earth and forest floor. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is balanced but aging. It's ready for consumption, with mature notes starting to creep in. Drink over the next year or two.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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87?

2016 Morgenster Lourens River Valley

The 2016 Lourens River Valley is made from 38% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Petit Verdot and 8% Cabernet Franc. The nose is open-knit and stewy, showing some mature aromas. Medium to full-bodied, the wine is mineral driven with a soft dusty expression before notes of dried fruit express with firm tannins. The wine aged 18 months in 25% new French oak. 30,000 bottles were produced. I don't see this getting much better in the coming years.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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87?

2016 Vergelegen V

Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with 11% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, the 2016 V is firm, darkly structured and more tannic than the 2015 vintage. Full-bodied, the wine shows a generous amount of oak before offering firm tannic grip that clamps down on the gum line and doesn't let go. Perhaps the wine needs a bit more time in the bottle. After aging for a year and a half in 100% new French oak barrels, the wine then spent an additional four years in bottle. 6,048 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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87?

2015 Vergelegen GVB Red

Composed of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 GVB Red offers an oaky and softly nutty nose, with the fruit condition in decline, offering soft aromas of dried cherries, blackberry juice and prunes. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is still firm with gripping tannins, with sappy oak and stewed fruit tones expressing. I suspect this red blend is showing subdued currently, from being in its cocoon stage, and hopefully, it will emerge with balanced tertiary tones. We'll see... The wine spent 18 months in 60% new French oak. 14,071 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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86

2021 Nuiba Wines Fourth Post

The 2021 Fourth Post is a Sémillon and Malbec blend that offers notes of cream soda with hints of peach, white cherry and spice. Medium to full-bodied, the mouthfeel offers surprising weight and makes me miss more lively acidity from the mid-palate to push my score higher. Drink up.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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86

2021 Ken Forrester Petit Rose

Made from 100% Grenache, the 2021 Petit Rose starts with a soft citrusy aroma that is rather straightforward and uncomplicated. Light to medium-bodied, this is an entry-level, value-driven wine that ends with a quick finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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86

2020 Ken Forrester Petit Merlot

Starting with a soft smoky essence, the 2020 Petit Merlot displays notes of sage and green pepper before ending with a short finish. This medium-bodied wine should be consumed over the next year.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Metzger Family Wines Cinsault

Medium ruby in color, the 2019 Cinsault is dominated by herbal aromas that give way to cherry and raspberry notions on the nose. Medium-bodied, the palate is firm with a strict tannic edge at present, which seems too sharp for Cinsault and leaves me wanting more freshness and purity from the wine. 1,800 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Zonnebloem Laureat

Composed of 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot and 15% Petit Verdot, the 2018 Laureat is on its last leg, offering evolved aromas of stewed tomato and dried red fruit skin. Showing near full maturity with nutty and almost raisiny trail mix flavors, the medium to full-bodied wine ends with hints of prune and plum reduction. It won't last much longer.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2015 Morgenster Estate Reserve

Composed of 44% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 15% Petit Verdot, the 2015 Estate Reserve offers aromas of tomato paste and wilted flowers, as it lacks freshness on the nose. Full-bodied, the wine is in full decline with tight tannins that drive through the finish. If this is still in your cellar, drink up!

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Haskell Dombeya Boulder Road Shiraz

Simple, straightforward and dark-fruited, the 2020 Dombeya Boulder Road Shiraz offers a dusty edge with a clipped finish. It seems like it's been taken too far and has seen better days.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Ken Forrester The Misfits Cinsault

Starting with aromas of wild brush, the 2021 The Misfits Cinsault is straightforward and red-berried. Medium-bodied, the palate shows a medicinal notion of cough drop followed by linear acidity across the mid-palate and a mineral-laced finish. Honestly, I had higher hopes for this wine...

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Waterkloof Estate Circumstance Sauvignon Blanc

Open-knit and with sweet citrus on the nose, the 2021 Circumstance Sauvignon Blanc is meant for speed, not distance. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is straightforward before ending with an uncomplicated finish.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2017 Meerlust Merlot

Made with the addition of 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, the 2017 Merlot offers a dark ruby core with a slight garnet reflection at the rim. The nose offers hints of prune with dried cherries and pump preserves. Medium to full-bodied, the palate displays flavors of dried berries and nuts that leave me wanting more freshness from the wine. If this is in your cellar, don't wait any longer. The wine spent 17 months in 54% new French oak. 60,000 bottles were produced.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2019 Aaldering Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot

Lacking freshness and vibrancy, the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot shows prune and oxidative notes on the nose. Confusingly, the wine is still bright with succulent acidity, but the fruit flavor profile is in decline. If this is still in your cellar, drink up. 14,000 bottles were made.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2018 Spier Cabernet Sauvignon 21 Gables

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon 21 Gables begins with a candied, red-fruited nose that doesn't quite smell or taste like Cabernet. Seemingly medium-bodied yet with 14.8% alcohol, the wine offers a firm tannic edge before offering up an almost synthetic flavor on the palate that I am not a fan of. The wine rested for 26 months in 70% new French oak. Looking at the technical data, the wine should have been better. What happened? 10,500 bottles were produced from free-run juice.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2021 Deux Frères Sauvignon Blanc

Starting with a soft, citrusy and watery nose, the 2021 Sauvignon Blanc lacks purity and freshness. I know they can do better than this.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2022 B Vintners Methode Ancestrale

The 2022 Methode Ancestrale starts slightly murky with hints of funk and mushrooms before faint aromas of old lemons appear in the glass. Initially, the light-bodied wine has bright acidity before swaying with hints of dank cellar. This one is for the natural wine lovers and, admittedly, is not my sparkling style, as it leaves me wanting more freshness and purity from the wine.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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2020 Waterkloof Estate Circle Of Life Red

Composed of 36% Shiraz, 30% Cabernet Franc, 22% Merlot and 12% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Circle Of Life Red still has some baby fat. The nose is subdued and shut down at the moment but hopefully will come together in time. Until then, I will reserve my score and assess it at a later date.

- Anthony Mueller (Jul 31, 2023)

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