



South Africa

Wineries A - C

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Tasting notes from the following growers:

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South Africa
Wineries A - C

See date & place of tasting in italics

Growers / Wineries are in alphabetical order with area underneath

Adi Badenhorst
Swartland

White Wines

The Curator White 2012 92 2013-16

Chenin Blanc Chardonnay Sémillon

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

The nose is very rich and the palate has the fleshiness of ripe honeydew melon. There is a fresher feel on the mid palate with hints of citrus but it fills out towards the back with melon and ripe pineapple.

Red Wines

The Red Curator 2011 92 2013-20

Shiraz Mourvèdre Cinsault Viognier

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

Red fruits are backed by black fruits lots of complex flavours on the nose and the start of the palate. There is richness and depth of fruit on the mid palate but then towards the back it is fresher bramble and redcurrant spicy and herbal.

African Pride Wines
Western Cape

Red Wines

Footprint Merlot Pinotage 2010 84 2011-13

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

There is a spicy green herbal character on the nose and it gives a lean start to the palate. Although some richer black plum shows towards the back the mid palate tends to be rather hollow.

**Ahrens Family
Bottelary Hills**

Red Wines

- Black 2015** **91** **2018-24**
Syrah Carignan Mourvèdre Marsanne Roussanne
Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018
 The black fruits on the nose are spicy the palate has herbal freshness quite firm at the start. There is mid sweetness more depth of flavour with at the back a spicy autumn hedgerow fruit mix.
- Bottelary 70 2014** **92** **2018-25**
Cabernet Sauvignon Cinsault
Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018
 Cassis in backed by black cherry the nose firm the start of the palate has a farmyard rustic quality. Sweet fruit in the middle ripe black cherry is supported by firm tannins the back palate has a rich mix of black fruits the finish has spicy freshness.

**Altydgedacht
Durbanville Hills**

White Wines

- Tygerberg Chenin Blanc 2005** **88**
South Africa Tasting October 2005
 The nose is quite light with a pleasant mix of tropical fruits and greengage. More weight of fruit shows on taste with sweetness filling out the mid palate and enriching the finish. It has good length with light fruity fragrances right at the back.
- Tygerberg Sauvignon Blanc 2005** **89**
South Africa Tasting October 2005
 Light, fragrant, green lime and gooseberry dominate the nose. The palate has a lively freshness with an exciting mix of fruit flavours. The finish is fragrant, elegant and lasts well.
- Tygerberg Gewurztraminer 2005** **88**
South Africa Tasting October 2005
 The nose has an ethereal fragrance, a mix of hedgerow flowers and exotic perfumes. There are light fruit flavours on the palate, sweetness of fruit, flowery and perfumed. The finish is fragrant and lingering.

Red Wines

Tygerberg Barbera 2005

87

South Africa Tasting October 2005

It is lovely and fragrant with ripe sweet bramble showing on the nose. The fruit is fleshy at the start of the palate but there is a mid palate freshness that enlivens the fruit. Attractive light flowery blackberry dominates the finish.

Ralph Parker Barbera 2009

91 2011-14

Tasted at the Game Fair Blenheim July 2011

The fruit on the nose is rich and ripe with a mass of black cherry and damson plum. The sweetness of the fruit gives fleshy richness on the mid palate but towards the backer fresher flavours come through a touch of bilberry balancing the richness. The finish is spiced up by some toasty oak.

**Anura Cellars
Paarl**

Red Wines**Pinotage Syrah 2009**

85 2011-14

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

Although the nose is quite rich the palate is hard and slightly mean. Bramble features towards the back the sweetness quite quickly overcome by red fruits and this leaves the finish hard and coarse.

**Auction Crossing
Hex River Crossing Private Cellar
Hex River**

De Villiers Graaff, A J Reyneke and Leon Dippenaar have redeveloped this wonderful old wine cellar built next door to the Dutch homestead in 1938. The two wines are Rhône varietal blends and they show all the characteristics of these northern Rhône grapes.

The name Auction Crossing comes from the original name of the farm "Vendutie Kraal" – auction kraal, so named as it was used for the auction of livestock by trek farmers heading north.

White Wines**Viognier 2007**

90 2008-10

Tasted at the Hex River Winery February 2008

Very classic Viognier on the nose, the white peach is backed by aromatic flowers, lush but vibrant. Lots of richness on the palate, the peach fruit fleshed out by some mouth filling apricot,

the freshness on the mid-palate balances the sweetness and the oak is very restrained. It is a big wine with just a hint of hot alcohol on the finish.

Viognier 2008**92 2009-11***Tasted at the Mansion House July 2010*

The nose has a lovely mix of flavours peachy apricot appears to dominate but behind is some fresher greengage. It has an attractive floral character with the ripe fruit, powerful apricot, filling out the mid palate and giving a sweet fleshy feel to the finish.

Viognier 2009**92 2010-12***Tasted at Edward Parker Wines London July 2010*

The nose has a lovely blend of apricot and fleshy white peach. This mix of flavours is there on the palate sweet at the start but fresher, just a hint of greengage, shows in the middle. The fruit is perfumed the layers of flavours giving complexity. The fruit salad mix gives lots of interest enriching the back palate.

Viognier 2010**92 2012-15***Tasted in the Jockey Club Rooms Newmarket December 2011*

The nose has a lovely mix of fragrances with lots of white peach in evidence. There is more weight of fruit on the palate a touch of sweet apricot but the citrus that lies underneath refreshes, gives a lighter feel to the back palate and brings out the peach and perfumed fragrances on the finish

Red Wines**Syrah 2006****91 2008-14***Tasted at the Hex River Winery February 2008*

Made in the style of some Côte Rôtie, a percentage of Viognier grapes are macerated with the Syrah. Black cherry is very much in evidence, enlivened by pepper and spice. The rounded ripe tannins ensure that the mid palate is lush, packed with powerful fruit. The Viognier shows towards the back and this combined with a red fruit influence lightens and lengthens the finish.

*Tasted at Vintners Hall June 2010***91 2008-15**

The fruit is lovely and sweet with the palate fleshed out by the ripeness of the tannins. Black and red fruits vie for dominance, first black cherry and then red. The finish has all the pepper spice that one expects from the grape.

Syrah Viognier 2008**92 2011-16***Tasted at Edward Parker Wines London July 2010*

Lovely ripe fruit enriches the nose and gives a fleshy start to the palate. The black fruits, bramble and blueberry are backed by ripe strawberry, layers of flavour that add to the complexity. The palate has richness, sweet fruit yet enough freshness and structure to lift and lengthen the flavours.

Syrah Viognier 2009**91 2012-17***Tasted in the Jockey Club Rooms Newmarket December 2011*

The fruit on the nose is ripe giving sweetness and richness. Black fruits dominate the start of the palate but under the richness there is a mix of red fruits that adds freshness all spiced up by the black pepper that comes through on the finish.

**Backsberg Estate
Paarl**

White Wines**Chenin Blanc 2015****89 2015-20***Tasted in Lincoln's Inn November 2015*

The nose has white flowers the palate is fresh at the start sweeter in the middle a mix of tropical fruits. Citrus under the tropical fruit mix refreshes and lightens but there is sweetness at the back and fruit on the finish.

Chenin Blanc 2016**90 2016-21***Tasted in Lilley December 2016**Tasted in the Mansion House July 2017*

Rich fruit on the nose the start of the palate peachy but under this there is pink grapefruit and tangerine freshness bright at the back with the sweeter fruit coming through on the finish. It has an attractive bitter sweet character.

Sauvignon Blanc 2016**88 2017-21***Tasted in the Mansion House July 2017*

The nose is bright the start of the palate has grapefruit and lime mid freshness. Sweeter towards the back more white peach in character the finish quite firm and crisp.

Red Wines**Backsberg Dry Red NV****89 2015-19*****Grapes – Cabernet Franc Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Malbec Shiraz****Tasted at Lincoln's Inn March 2015*

The nose has a savoury black cherry character the palate starts with fresh fruit some bramble and bilberry sweeter in the middle supple and fleshy with fresh red fruits on the finish. An easy drinking glass of red enjoyable on its own and it goes well with chicken, prosciutto and pasta.

**Beaumont Hope
Bottelary River**

Red Wines

Pinotage 2015**90 2018-23***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

The fruit is sweet quite ripe the palate starts with black cherry fair mid depth. Under the black fruits mulberry gives freshness the back-palate firm with sweeter fruit showing on the finish.

**Bellevue Estate
Stellenbosch**

Red Wines**Morkel Malbec 2009****91 2011-15***Tasted at the South Africa tasting October 2011*

The black fruit mix on the nose has a herbal backing, hints of rosemary and this shows on the start of the palate. The mid palate has lots of sweet fruit blackcurrant and blackberry with the richness of black truffle filling out the back palate and finish.

**Black Elephant Vintners
Franschhoek**

White Wines**Timothy White 2016****89 2018-20*****Chenin Blanc Semillon Sauvignon Blanc Viognier****Tasted in the Royal College of Physicians February 2018*

The nose has fragrance freshness the palate light and fresh at the start sweeter richer in the middle. The mix of fruits layers of flavour give interest the back palate has a hint of tropical fruit the finish citrus freshness.

Two Dogs A Peacock & A Horse Sauvignon Blanc 2017**90 2018-23***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

Ripe tropical fruits the nose is rich the start of the palate quite sweet. Fresh fruits and mineral lighten the mid palate bright at the back the finish has length and racy freshness.

**Boatsman's Drift
Western Cape**

White Wines**Chenin Blanc 2016****90 2017-20***Tasted in Lilley May 2017*

Chenin Blanc is still the most widely planted grape in South Africa and Boatsman's Drift, (*takes its name from the Flying Dutchman, a ghostly ship lost off the Cape of Good Hope and doomed to sail the seven seas forever*), has the crisp apple freshness on the nose so typical of the grape. Fruity in the middle tropical fruits, guavas and mango breadth of flavour but there is balance with citrus brightening the finish.

**Boekenhoutskloof
Franschhoek**

Red Wines

Porcupine Ridge Syrah 2012 88 2013-17

Tasted in Lilley December 2013

The red fruits on the nose are fresh peppery and spicy but the palate is sweeter with a nice depth of flavour more bramble and black cherry in character. The back palate has lovely rich fruit with the black pepper of the nose coming out on the finish.

Porcupine Ridge Syrah 2014 88 2015-19

Tasted in Lilley November 2015

The nose has a peppery spiciness the palate a mix of red fruits fresh at the start sweeter and richer in the middle. Under the richer fruit there is freshness lighter at the back with lots of black pepper on the finish.

The Chocolate Block 2007 90 2010-15

Syrah 55% Grenache Noir 20% Cabernet Sauvignon 16% Cinsault 5% Viognier 4%

Tasted in Lilley May 2010

It is all upfront with fleshy black fruits packing out the nose and giving richness on the palate. Black plum and cherry are backed by more herbal flavours with spice showing on the sweet fruited back palate.

Winemaker Series The Red 2016 Marc Kent 90 2018-25

Syrah 60% Cabernet Sauvignon 20% Cinsault 20%

Tasted in Lilley at the Mercer's October 2018

The nose has a mix of fruits red fruits backed by black the palate starts with ripe black fruit spicy plums and dark chocolate. There is balance coming from the red cherry that shows at the back the finish is fleshy, supple and rich.

**Boschendal
Franschhoek**

White Wines

Boschen Blanc 2010**84 2011-13***Mhbizi Resort Zimbabwe August 2010*

The nose is over fat with a mass of fleshy fruit with ripe pineapple giving richness on the palate. Under all of this is acidity quite hard and slightly green that unbalances and leaves the finish rather hard.

**Bouchard Finlayson
Walker Bay**

White Wines

Blanc de Mer 2003**87***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004*

The nose has a lively mix of grapefruit and lime and the palate is vibrant and fragrant, nice depth of fruit with a citrus freshness on the long finish.

Blanc de Mer 2005**88***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose has lovely floral fragrances with elderflower underpinned by pineapple and grapefruit. There is a lovely freshness on the palate with a sweetness of fruit showing on the mid plate. It has an attractive lingering finish.

Blanc de Mer 2009**88***Tasted in Lilley December 2009*

The nose has the crispness of green limes, lovely and fresh with an attractive floral character. The palate although light and fresh at the start is sweeter in the middle, more of an apricot and tropical fruit mix. The lime and mineral freshness shows again towards the back leaving the finish lovely and crisp.

Blanc de Mer 2010**89 2010-12*****Riesling Viognier Sauvignon Blanc Chenin Blanc Chardonnay****Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010*

The nose has a nice mix of flavours tropical fruits with hints of peach and citrus. The sweetness of the fruit on the start and middle of the palate gives way to freshness that lifts the fruit and lengthens the flavours.

Blanc de Mer 2011**89 2011-13*****Riesling 49% Viognier 22% Sauvignon Blanc 10% Chenin Blanc 10% Chardonnay 5% Sémillon 4%****Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

The nose has an attractive mix of flavours with the sweetness of the white peach refreshed by a touch of lime. The palate starts fresh is sweeter in the middle and has a lot of different flavours showing on the finish.

Blanc de Mer 2012 89 2013-15

Riesling 49% Viognier 27% Sauvignon Blanc 14% Chardonnay 8% Chenin Blanc 2%

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

The mix of fragrances on the nose has all the charm of a summer garden and the palate is citrusy and fresh with an underlying leafy quality. The tropical fruits on the back palate give a little more depth on the finish.

Blanc de Mer 2013 89 2014-17

Riesling Viognier Sauvignon Blanc Chenin Blanc Chardonnay

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Tasted at the Lea & Sandeman tasting Galleria London March 2015

Light on the nose white flowered fragrant both nose and palate has a fresh citrus mix. There is more depth in the middle hints of white peach but the finish is crisp and citrus driven.

Blanc de Mer 2014 88 2015-17

Riesling 69% Viognier 24% Chenin Blanc 3% Chardonnay 4%

Tasted at the Carlton Club May 2015

The nose is quite full the mid palate sweet rather lacking in freshness. A touch of citrus at the back gives a slightly brighter feel on the finish

Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2004 88

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004

The nose is flowery with orange blossom and tropical fruit and there is grassy gooseberry on the palate, the crisp fruit flavours tingle in the mouth. There is an attractive weight of fruit on the finish that lingers well.

Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2005 90

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The nose is gunflint crisp with a mix of gooseberry and tropical fruits. The freshness gives a racy character to the palate with a steely flintiness to the fruit. There is a lot of character shows and the finish is packed with gooseberry and lime.

Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2009 90

Tasted in Lilley December 2009

It is very racy very mineral driven with lots of fresh grapefruit behind the flint. Sweeter flavours come through on the mid palate, more of a tropical fruit character. The citrus is very much in evidence towards the back and gives a lovely freshness to the finish.

Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2010 89 2010-13

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

It seems to be more tropical fruit in character some lovely sweet flavours. The mid palate has freshness lots of gooseberry and these combined with the lime and lemon mix give a crisp feel to the back palate.

Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2011**90 2012-16***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The crisp gooseberry cut grass nose is backed by sweeter flavours hints of tropical fruits. The mid palate is quite rich with a white peach character but the gooseberry and apple freshness comes through on the back palate giving a crunchy crisp finish.

Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2012**90 2013-17***Tasted at LWTF May 2013*

The nose is citrus driven and the start of the palate racy and fresh fruited with lime and grapefruit. The mid palate has sweeter flavours more tropical fruit in character but it the citrus that refreshes the finish.

Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2013**90 2014-19***Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Crunchy gooseberry the nose is fresh and the start of the palate crisp. There is a sweeter feel to the mid palate grapefruit hints of tropical fruits with the lime and gooseberry dominating and refreshing the finish.

Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2014**89 2015-19***Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015**Tasted at the Carlton Club May 2015*

Gooseberry and lime the nose is fresh the start of the palate crunchy. The mid palate has some sweeter fruit grapefruit and hints of tropical fruit but at the back gooseberry is to the fore the finish lighter and fresher.

Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2009**91 2010-13*****Sauvignon Blanc 88% Semillon 12%****Tasted at the LWTF May 2010*

Gooseberry crispness is there on the nose and gives a lovely freshness on the palate. There are richer flavours on the mid palate a mix of fruits with hints of tropical fruits backed by apple and grapefruit. Although there is sweetness towards the back the finish is very citrus crisp.

Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2010**92 2012-16***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

White peach and tropical fruits give a rich feel to the nose and a fleshy start to the palate. There is an underlying citrus mix that balances refreshes and brings out the oak spice on the finish.

Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2012**92 2013-18**

Tasted at LWTF May 2013

Ripe fruits give richness on the nose and more depth and richness on the start of the palate. The mid palate is crisper with an attractive mix of lime and grapefruit and this gives a racy feel to the long finish.

Sans Barrique Chardonnay 2003**88***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004*

The nose is very light and fragrant with a mix of melon and lemon. Sweet fruit shows on the palate, clean and crisp, the melon character is very much in evidence and lasts well.

Sans Barrique Chardonnay 2004**91***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

Minerals are mixed with fresh fruits on the nose giving it vibrancy and crispness. The palate has purity of fruit with richer melon refreshed by lemons and lime. The mix of freshness and sweetness is deliciously enticing.

Sans Barrique Chardonnay 2009**91****2010-14***Tasted at the Mansion House July 2010**Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010*

The nose has a mix of greengage and fresh apple. The racy feel of the nose is there on the start of the palate but in the middle there are sweeter flavours layers of fruit that give complexity. There is an exciting weight of flavour on the back palate the fruit richness balanced by the lime freshness.

Sans Barrique Chardonnay 2010**91****2012-16***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

Behind the fresh fruit on the nose is a sweeter richer mix of flavours. The palate has ripe fruit but enough underlying freshness to balance and give a lighter racier feel to the finish.

Sans Barrique Chardonnay 2011**91****2012-17***Tasted at the Leathersellers November 2012**Tasted at the Mansion House July 2013*

The nose has fresh apple and citrus an attractive crispness. Sweeter fruit greengage and melon gives richness in the middle but the finish like the nose has the freshness of lime and minerals.

Sans Barrique Chardonnay 2013**91****2014-19***Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Lime and lemon refresh the nose the start of the palate light and fresh. There is richer fruit in the middle lots of greengage some honeydew melon and this mix gives richness on the back palate and finish.

Sans Barrique Chardonnay 2014**90****2015-19***Tasted at the Carlton Club May 2015*

Light and fresh the palate has a bright citrusy feel but there is more depth in the middle apple and a greengage. The finish is bright light and fresh.

Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2003 **90**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004

Power of fruit on the nose, fresh melon mixed with just a hint of oak. The taste has depth of flavour, a mix of white peach and greengage and although feeling fresh has a suppleness of character.

Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2004 **92**

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The ocean's cooling breezes have given a lively freshness to the nose enlivening the complex mix of greengage, grapefruit and pineapple. The palate has depth of flavour, a sweetness of fruit but also a freshness that lifts and lengthens. The finish has a complex mix of fruits, white peach, melon and greengage.

Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2009 **91** **2011-14**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

The freshness of the fruit gives crispness on the nose green lime mixed with apple. Sweeter flavours give some weight on the mid palate but the overall feel is of freshness and purity of flavour.

Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2010 **92** **2012-16**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

Although the fruit on the nose seems very rich it is not over sweet or heavy. Greengage fills out the palate the fleshiness richness helped by the ripe melon that lies underneath. There is freshness that highlights the fragrances and gives a slightly lighter feel to the finish.

Crocodile's Lair "Kaaimansgat" Chardonnay 2011 **91** **2013-18**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

The nose has the fleshy richness of ripe melon and the palate has depth of flavour. Greengage dominates the back palate with the freshness of apple and lime giving crispness on the finish.

Crocodile's Lair "Kaaimansgat" Chardonnay 2012 **91** **2013-19**

Tasted at LWTF May 2013

Ripe greengage gives depth on the nose and a fleshy richness on the palate. The sweetness of the fruit is balanced by fresher fruits that come through towards the back a touch of grapefruit but it is the melon richness that fills out the back palate.

Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2013 **91** **2014-19**

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015

Tasted at the Lea & Sandeman tasting Galleria London March 2015

The nose has a lovely richness the start of the palate fleshy with ripe melon and greengage. Apple and lime balance the richness and it is slightly lighter on the back palate yet the finish is ripe fruited with rich greengage.

Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2014 91 2015

Tasted at the Carlton Club May 2015

The nose has depth of fruit the palate a ripe melon and greengage richness. Under the fuller flavours apple and citrus refresh, the back palate bright yet there is sweetness more depth of flavour on the finish.

Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2016 89 2018-22

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

The nose is light fresh fragrant the palate has an apple and lime mix bright at the start. Tropical fruits in the middle slightly more depth but the fresh fruit the strong citrus character gives a racy lightness on the finish.

Crocodile's Lair Limited Release Chardonnay 2009 92 2011-15

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

Citrus fragrances are very much in evidence on the nose and the start of the palate is racy and fresh fruited. Sweet fleshier honeydew melon enriches the mid palate and gives more weight towards the back but the finish is apple fresh.

Limited Release Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2010 92 2012-18

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

There is a lot happening on the nose with depth of fruit backed by a hint of oak spice. The richness of greengage and melon is balanced by apple freshness layers of fruit helping complexity. The finish has power yet freshness and elegance.

Missionvale Chardonnay 2003 91

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2005

The nose is full fat and opulent and there is lots of fruit showing on the palate, rich and ripe. The back palate is packed with greengage which integrates well with the spicy oak, generosity of flavour on the finish.

Missionvale Chardonnay 2004 93

South Africa Tasting October 2006

Depth of fruit comes through on the nose, a fatness and opulence mixed with vanilla oak. The palate is rich, full of ripe melon with a complex depth and weight of fruit. Some oak shows at this stage but the power of melon and greengage soon envelop it and one is left with a mouthful of ripe, lush fruit.

Missionvale Chardonnay 2009 92 2011-15

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

The fruit is rich and ripe backed by sweet oak. The richness of flavour gives lots of power on the mid palate and fleshy depth towards the back. There is underlying greengage that refreshes the finish.

Missionvale Chardonnay 2010**92 2013-19***Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013*

There is real fruit power on the nose lots of rich ripe flavours with fleshy melon and ripe greengage. Under the sweet fruit on the mid palate there are fresher fruits with a touch of spicy oak which lingers on the long finish.

Missionvale Chardonnay 2012**91 2014-20***Tasted at the LWF June 2014**Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015**Tasted at the Carlton Club May 2015*

Fleshy rich both nose and palate have depth and a lot of powerful fruit flavours. The rich mid palate is underpinned by apple slightly fresher towards the back but the finish is rather over heavy and sweet.

Missionvale Chardonnay 2015**92 2018-23***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

Rich and ripe the nose has depth the palate layers of fruit breadth of flavour. There is an underlying balancing freshness some cut apple with at the back depth of fruit ripe pear and fleshy melon

Red Wines**Hannibal 2002****92*****Sangiovese Pinot Noir Nebbiolo Shiraz Mourvèdre Barbera****Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004*

The nose is very complex with lots of different fruit flavours mixed with peppery spice. On taste cherry and mulberry are very much in evidence but bramble and strawberry flavours show towards the finish. It needs more time.

Hannibal 2003**92***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

There is so much is happening on the nose, first black cherry, then mulberry and finally bramble. It has real depth and weight of sweet fruit. The palate is supple and rounded with the mix of fruits enticing and exciting, the sweetness well balanced by a mid palate freshness. It has great length with flavours that linger on the finish.

Hannibal 2007**92*****Sangiovese 52% Pinot Noir 14% Shiraz 13% Mourvèdre 9% Nebbiolo 9% Barbera 3%****Tasted at Lilley December 2009*

There is an attractive mix of fruit on the nose, some fleshy red fruits backed by bilberry and bramble. The cherry of Sangiovese is there on the palate backed by mulberry and spiced up a touch of black pepper. There is a weight of fruit that enriches the back palate with freshness of red fruits showing right at the back.

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

92 2011-18

It appears to be dominated by red fruits with lots of mulberry, raspberry and red cherry but behind all of this there are sweeter black. There is a lovely complex mix of black and red flavours on the palate the sweet fruit mix backed by a herbal twist on the finish.

Hannibal 2008

93 2011-16

Sangiovese Nebbiolo

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

The two grapes complement each other with the red cherry freshness of the Sangiovese backed by the blacker fruited slightly tarry Nebbiolo. The mid palate feels rich with sweet ripe fruit but towards the back the red fruited freshness comes through balancing and adding complexity.

Hannibal 2009

93 2013-20

Sangiovese 38% Pinot Noir 18% Nebbiolo 16% Shiraz 15% Mourvedre 10% Barbera 3%

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

There is a lot happening on the nose a complex mix of flavours red fruited yet with sweetness and a black pepper excitement. The mid palate is rich packed with fruit lovely ripe flavours yet towards the back it is fresher with more redcurrants showing.

Hannibal 2010

92 2012-18

Sangiovese 50% Pinot Noit 22% Nebbiolo 13% Mourvèdre 7% Barbera 6% Shiraz 2%

Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011

The Sangiovese features strongly on the nose with some lovely red cherry. The palate is richer more black fruit in influence with the sweetness of the fruit nicely balanced by freshness. The finish has complexity weight of flavour and just a hint of peppery spice.

Hannibal 2012

93 2014-22

Sangiovese Nebbiolo

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015

Tasted at the Lea & Sandeman tasting Galleria London March 2015

There is a complex mix of flavours fresh and red fruited on the nose with bitter cherry on the start of the palate. The mid palate has more depth more black fruit s with at the back lots of complexity a hazel nut character behind the fruit.

Hannibal 2013

90 2017-25

Sangiovese 52% Pinot Noir 17% Nebbiolo 15% Mourvèdre 5% Shiraz 6% Barbera 5%

Tasted at the Carlton Club May 2015

The nose is heavy the start of the palate very firm. It seems a bit of a muddle and lacks harmony. Sweeter at the back with more black fruits showing the finish is fresher and lighter.

Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2002**89***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004*

Soft red berried fruit has a creamy spice on the nose. There is fresh cherry and raspberry on the palate yet a soft and velvety feel in the middle but then freshness that lifts the end and gives it length.

Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2003**91***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

Light fresh, fragrant mulberry and black cherry on the nose. The taste has an attractive lightness with flowery elegance and a complex mix of fruit flavours. Sweet feel to the mid palate with mulberry very dominant, a fruit flavour that carries right through to the finish.

Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2008**93****2011-17***Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010*

There is a very attractive red fruited freshness on the nose, mulberry and loganberry backed by blacker fruited bilberry. The palate is richer, the fruit ripe and sweet giving it more flesh and depth of flavour with the richness enhanced by supple tannins. The supple richness is well balanced by the underlying streak of red fruit freshness with just a hint of spice on the finish.

Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2009**92****2011-16***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011*

Floral and fragrant on the nose the palate starts quite fresh but sweeter mulberry and bramble are there enriching the middle. The mix of fruits gives lots of complexity the red fruited fragrances underpinned by the black fruited richness.

Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2010**93****2012-18***Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

Fresh mulberry vies with richer bramble for dominance a lovely mix of flavours. The fruit feels ripe giving richness on the mid palate, the layers of flavour give complexity and the back palate is refreshed by the mulberry that underpins.

Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2011**93****2013-19***Tasted at LWTF May 2013*

The nose is quite sweet fruited black cherry backed by ripe mulberries and the start of the palate has the same mix of fruits and depth of flavour. The mid palate has more of a bright red fruit influence raspberries and red cherries but towards the back the sweeter fruit comes through giving depth and richness on the finish.

Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2012**93****2014-21***Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015

Tasted at the Lea & Sandeman tasting Galleria London March 2015

Tasted at the Carlton Club May 2015

Fragrant minty the nose has a red and black fruited mix. Fleshy mulberry is backed by bramble and bilberry layers of interest and although lighter on the back palate it finishes with depth of fruit.

Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2015

91 2018-24

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

Depth of fruit on the nose the start of the palate has concentrated black fruits. Lighter in the middle bilberry gives freshness bright at the back with sweet fruit coming through on the finish.

Tête de Cuvée Pinot Noir 2001

91

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004

The nose is rich and savoury with mulberry and bilberry and the palate is very concentrated with a ripe opulent feel. The tannins are there but ripe and the finish is enormous with a great weight of fruit showing.

Pinot Noir Tête de Cuvée 2007

94 2010-18

Tasted at the LWTF May 2010

The fruit on the nose is lovely and rich with the sweetness of ripeness. There are layers of flavour on the palate, fleshy mulberry backed by fresher red cherry, the sweetness enhanced by ripe damson. There is real power of flavour on the long finish.

Pinot Noir Tête de Cuvée 2009

93 2012-19

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

The nose is very sweet fruited rich powerful and black fruited. The palate starts sweet with ripe blackberry fleshy mulberry but towards the back there is freshness that lightens and lifts the flavours on the finish.

Pinot Noir Tête de Cuvée 2013

94 2018-25

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

Brooding depth the nose has a rich mix of black fruits the palate ripe black cherry. There is balance with the underlying bramble and mulberry lightening and refreshing then sweet fruit comes through giving richness on the finish.

Brampton
(Was the 2nd Label of Rustenberg until sold)
Stellenbosch

White Wines

Chardonnay 2005**89***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

It is quite light with attractive zingy lemon freshness on the nose. Vibrant flavours on the palate, an attractive mix of greengage and melon enlivened by some flowery spice lemon. The fruit feels sweet towards the back of the palate and the finish has a good length of fruit.

Sauvignon 2005**90***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose is light, flowery with fragrant gooseberry and tropical fruits. Green and limey on the palate there is a vibrant freshness and a mass of fruit showing towards the finish. The fruit feels quite sweet so although very fresh there is no hardness or bitterness

Viognier 2005**92***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

It is attractively floral on the nose with peach and apricot coming through. Sweet fruit enrich the palate, quite full in the mouth with white peach and apricot very much to the fore. The back palate has good depth of flavour and a very attractive long lasting finish

Red Wines**Cabernet Sauvignon 2004****91***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

There is lots of concentrated fruit on the nose, cassis and bilberry, sweet yet fresh. The palate has good depth very fat, full, ripe and rounded with a dark chocolate centre. The mid palate has structure but as the tannins are ripe it feels supple and almost fleshy on finish.

Shiraz 2004**91***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose has lots of spice pepper backed by mulberry and black fruits. It is rich and sweet on the taste a mid peppery character with lush ripe fruit, fleshy flavours towards the back. The finish has lots of fruit mixed red and black, raspberry, loganberry and plum.

Sweet White Wine**Straw Wine 2003****91***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

Made from 100% Chardonnay the nose has a fascinating mix of greengage and melon mixed in with dried fruits, prunes and orange peel. Rich and sweet but this well balanced by a mid acidity. A hint of volatile acidity adds to the mix of flavours and is very much a plus rather than a negative

**Cape Diversity
Western Cape****White Wines****Chenin Blanc 2010****88 2010-12****Made by Danie Steytler Jnr of Kaapzicht***Tasted at the Carlton Club September 2010*

The nose has some nice fruit hints of sweet tropical fruits underpinned by citric freshness. The peachy tropical fruit mix is backed by grapefruit refreshing and lifting the flavours with towards the back a bitter sweet character.

Sauvignon Blanc 2010**88 2010-12****Made by Andries Burger of Paul Cluver***Tasted in Lilley October 2010*

The nose is all lime and apple with a mineral raciness. Sweeter flavours fill out the mid palate tropical fruits and pear. The sweetness is well balanced by the freshness and the back palate has a lovely mix of crisp gooseberry and richer apple.

Unoaked Chardonnay 2010**87 2010-12****Made by Andries Burger of Paul Cluver***Tasted in Lilley October 2010*

The nose is very fresh with lots of green limes and crisp apple. The freshness shows on the palate, sweeter flavours in the middle but the crispness tends to take over leaving the finish very citrus in character.

Red Wines**Shiraz 2009****88 2010-13****Made by Danie Steytler Jnr of Kaapzicht***Tasted in Lilley October 2010*

Although there are more red fruits than black in evidence on the nose it is sweet and spicy. The mulberry and raspberry of the nose is enriched by black plum on the palate, sweet and full the black pepper spicing up the finish but there are red fruits showing on the back palate give a balancing freshness.

**Cape Heights
Western Cape****White Wines****Chenin Blanc 2011****87 2012-15**

Tasted at the Stone House Hotel Wensleydale September 2012

The nose is quite rich with a mix of white peach and tropical fruits. This mix of flavours gives richness at the start of the palate but behind the citrus refreshes and gives a slightly less concentrated feel on the finish.

Red Wines**Shiraz 2011****89 2012-15***Tasted at the Stone House Hotel Wensleydale September 2012*

There is some nice sweet fruit on the nose a mix of black and red fruits. The mid palate is rich with mulberry, strawberry and bramble but towards the back there is freshness that brings out the black pepper spiciness yet the finish has a lovely sweet almost fleshy feel.

Shiraz 2012**90 2012-16***Tasted in Lilley November 2012*

The nose has all the spice, red fruits and black pepper of the grape whether you call it Syrah or Shiraz. The tannins feel ripe ensuring a supple mid palate but underneath there is a red fruit influence that refreshes and gives a lighter feel to the finish. The flavours linger the fruit given a racy spiciness by the black pepper. It has the freshness to marry well with richer meats such as pork and is a red that would be a good partner to the stronger flavoured fish dishes such as salmon.

Shiraz 2013**89 2013-17***Tasted in Lilley November 2013*

The fruit feels ripe lots of sweet flavours on the nose and richness and depth on the start of the palate. Red fruits tend to dominate fleshy strawberry and mulberry yet there is an underlying freshness that gives a lighter feel towards the back and brings out the peppery spices so typical of the Shiraz. The freshness makes it a great partner to pork, the flavours are not too strong for poultry and if you enjoy red with fish this is the wine for salmon.

Shiraz 2014**89 2015-19***Tasted in Lilley April 2015*

Rich and ripe on the nose the palate has a fleshy mix of black and red fruits supple in the middle the tannins ripe and rounded. There is an underlying freshness slightly lighter at the back the finish so typical of the grape, peppery and spicy. A great "Jack of all Trades" with enough depth and richness for beef yet enough freshness for pork and lamb and if you just enjoy a glass of red this is the perfect wine.

Shiraz 2015**89 2016-20***Tasted in Lilley January 2016*

Syrah or Shiraz it is all the same and this is a classic with its peppery nose. Sweet, ripe, fleshy on the palate there is a mix of black and richer red fruits the mid palate supple with ripe rounded

tannins. The richness of the fruit gives depth of flavour the finish is savoury with black pepper spiciness.

Shiraz 2016**89 2016-22***Tasted in Lilley December 2016*

The nose has depth sweetness the palate is fleshy, rich with layers of black and red fruits. The tannins are fine and integrated velvety and smooth in the middle yet there is enough redcurrant freshness to balance and bring out savoury black pepper spiciness on the finish.

Shiraz 2017**89 2017-23***Tasted in Lilley December 2017*

A classic Shiraz the nose has black pepper spice excitement the palate the sweetness of ripe fruit. The layers of black fruits and red fruits give complexity the tannins are fine and integrated with sweet fruit in the middle. Redcurrant at the back gives a lighter fresher feel and brings out a savoury spiciness on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2012**90 2013-17***Tasted in Lilley May 2013*

Cassis is very much to the fore sweet and ripe and this gives richness on the start of the palate. The mid palate has a fresher feel with lots of bramble and bilberry then towards the back it fills out supple and fleshy with ripe rounded tannins and the finish has layers of black fruited flavours. It is an easy drinking glass with the freshness to compliment lamb and pork yet the depth of flavour to go with beef.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2013**90 2014-19***Tasted in Lilley May 2014*

The hot summer days of the Western Cape ensure the fruit is sweet the tannins ripe the mid palate rich and fleshy. The richness sweet fruit, the liquorice and chocolate are balanced by fresher black fruits at the back the mix of bramble and bilberry adding to the complexity. Although Cabernet Sauvignon makes a great partner to lamb there is enough depth of flavour to stand up to the stronger meats such as beef.

Merlot 2012**87 2013-16***Tasted in Lilley May 2013*

The nose is quite sweet but the palate very fresh with bitter cherry and bramble. It is slightly richer towards the back but lacking in real depth and fruit sweetness.

Catherine Marshall
Elgin

White Wines

- Sauvignon Blanc 2004** **88**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005
 The nose has an intensity of fruit character, greengage and tropical fruit. Fresh, lively and fragrant on taste with apple and gooseberry mixed with peach and apricot.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2006** **88**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2007
 The nose has an intensity of herbal fruit, a mix of greengage and gooseberry. Very fresh at the start but the sweetness comes through on the mid palate. Lots of character a mix of grassy gooseberry and herbal citrus fruits
- Sauvignon Blanc 2007** **91**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008
 Lots of intense herbal grassy fruit fills out the nose. The palate is crisp, very gooseberry at the start but this underpinned by sweeter more tropical fruits. The attractive freshness adds brightness to the finish.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2008** **89**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009
 It is a very light with elderflower fragrances on the nose. On the palate there is more of a tropical fruit guava character with towards the back an attractive flinty smokiness.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2010** **91** **2011-13**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011
 The nose has lots of racy crisp fruit with gooseberry featuring but it's not too exaggerated. Sweeter more tropical fruit fills out the mid palate then the citrus mix comes to the fore and crisps up the finish.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2011** **91** **2012-15**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012
 There is lots of citrus and cut apple freshness on the nose lovely and floral. The mid palate sweetness a mix of tropical fruits gives way to gooseberry and mown grass towards the back and the finish has a mineral crispness.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2012** **91** **2013-17**
Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013
 The nose has a racy crispness and the palate is crunchy packed with gooseberries. There is a hint of white peach in the middle slightly richer but the finish like the nose has a strong lime and gooseberry freshness.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2013** **92** **2014-18**
Tasted at the LWF June 2014

The fruit on the nose is fresh the palate crisp very gooseberry in character. Fresh on the start of the palate it feels richer in the middle more of a grapefruit character but there is lots of gooseberry and lime refreshing the finish.

Amatra Chenin Blanc 2013 92 2014-17

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

The fruit mix on the nose is sweet the palate quite rich with tropical fruits and pear. Citrus lime and lemon is more in evidence at the back giving freshness and a lighter feel to the finish.

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2006 91

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2007

The fruit mix on the nose is floral and fresh, mulberry vying with cherry for dominance. There is an attractive sweetness on the palate well balanced by the underlying freshness that highlights the fruit fragrances.

Pinot Noir 2007 90

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008

Mulberry backed by some black cherry gives richness on the nose and some sweet flesh on the palate. There is underlying balancing acidity that lifts and lengthens the flavours.

Pinot Noir 2008 91

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009

The nose is fragrant lots of minty mulberry backed by black fruits. The fruit on the palate has the sweetness of ripe fruit giving a fleshy feel towards the back. There is enough red fruited freshness to balance the ripeness.

Pinot Noir 2009 90 2011-14

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

Although the nose is quite fresh and fragrant there are some richer fuller mulberry flavours showing behind. The mid palate has a good weight of flavour and sweetness of fruit but towards the back its fresher and this tends to give a lighter feel to the finish.

Pinot Noir 2010 91 2011-15

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

Fresh cherry seems to dominate the nose but behind it there are richer flavours still very red fruit in character. Sweet fruit fills out the mid palate at first very red fruit dominated but underpinning there is black cherry and a hint of cassis. Red cherry and raspberry feature strongly on the fresh finish.

Pinot Noir 2011 91 2013-18

Tasted at the LWTF May 2013

Mulberry dominates the nose fresh and fragrant with the mix of red fruits giving freshness on the start of the palate. The mid palate feels sweeter yet the back palate is lovely and vibrant.

Pinot Noir 2012**91 2014-18***Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Light on the nose the palate starts with red fruited freshness. There is slightly more depth in the middle a cranberry mulberry mix yet the finish has a lovely raspberry freshness.

Pinot Noir Reserve 11 Barrels 2009**92 2011-15***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011*

There is a lot of fleshy ripe fruit on the nose first black cherry then fresher mulberry lots of flavours. The sweetness of the fruit enriches the mid palate but nicely balanced by the freshness a lovely complex mix of flavours fills out the finish.

Pinot Noir 11 Barrels Reserve 2011**92 2013-18***Tasted at the LWTF May 2013*

The nose is fresh red fruited but the palate has more of a black fruited mix some nice sweet flavours. Ripe fruit enriches the mid palate with the fleshy richness balanced by the raspberry and redcurrant that is there at the back.

Pinot Noir Barrel Reserve 2012**93 2014-19***Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Black and red fruits give interest and complexity on the nose layers of fruit on the palate. The mulberry wild strawberry mix is fresh but underneath is bramble giving more depth and richness although lighter at the back the finish has a nice weight of fruit.

Shiraz 2002**89***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2004*

Sweet fruit shows on the nose with malty raspberry and cherry with a spice fragrance. The palate has a good weight of flavour and a depth of ripe fruit filling the mouth with suppleness and slightly peppery fruit.

Syrah 2003**88***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005*

The mix of red fruits on the nose, raspberry and cherry are backed by a peppery spice. Both nose and palate are firm, the structure giving an added complexity to the flavours; a lighter more fragrant feel towards the back.

Syrah 2004**91***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006*

Red fruits dominate the nose but behind the raspberry and cherry is a hint of bramble. On the palate the sweetness of the fruit is nicely balanced by the underlying freshness. The spice of black pepper gives an excitement to the finish.

Syrah Mourvèdre Grenache 2008 92 2011-15
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011
 It seems very rich and full of ripe fruit but behind the sweetness the fruit has fresh herbal notes that add to the complexity. Red fruits vie with black for dominance the reds showing quite strongly towards the back spiced up by black pepper.

Shiraz Mourvèdre Grenache 2009 91 2012-16
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012
 The nose is sweet a touch herbal red fruited with lots of black pepper. The ripeness of the fruit gives a richer feel on the mid palate but the finish is fresh with a lovely mix of red fruits.

Amatra Merlot 2012 92 2013-19
Tasted at the LWTF May 2013
 The dark plum on the nose and palate is rich and ripe filling out the nose and giving a fleshy richness on the palate. Red cherry underpins on the back palate slightly lighter and fresher and the red fruits linger on the finish.

Fortified Red Wines

Myriad 2002 88
Fortified Pinot Noir
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008
 The nose is heavy, spicy with sweet plum and the palate is rich and full of loganberry flavours. Fat and full in the middle but lacks a little length.

Myriad 2003 90
Fortified Pinot Noir
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009
 It is very rich, sweet and concentrated with the mulberry fleshed out by some red plum. The ripeness of the fruit gives a lush rich feel to the palate but the layers of fruit ensure that there is an attractive complexity. It is a wine that would make an ideal partner to blue cheese.

Myriad 2007 92 2012-18
Fortified Pinot Noir
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012
 The nose is rich ripe black fruited fleshy. The mid palate has ripe power lots of sweet fruit with more black than red fruits showing. There is some underlying freshness which helps to modify the lush fleshy richness.

Myriad 2008 92 2013-20
Fortified Merlot
Tasted at the LWTF May 2013

The nose has complexity of flavour and there is a lot happening on the palate the black cherry richness the mid sweetness underpinned by red fruited freshness. The finish has depth of flavour layers of fruit lots of complexity.

**Cederberg
Clanwilliam
Western Cape**

White Wines

Cederberg Chenin Blanc 2017

88 2028-22

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

White flowers the nose has a fragrant mix the palate light with lime and lemon fresh in the middle. There is a slight lack of fruit the back-palate firm the finish a bit short on length.

Cederberg V Generations Chenin Blanc 2915

92 2018-21

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

Yellow peach scraped orange peel there is a lot happening on the nose the palate has layers of fruit freshness under the richer flavours. Bright and mineral at the back fresh fruits with a hint of sweetness on the finish.

Cape Atlantic Sauvignon Blanc 2017

88 2018-22

(Cederberg Second Label)

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

The nose is fresh fragrant with orange blossom the start of the palate light with crunchy gooseberry. Firm in the middle quite hard and although there is a hint of sweetness at the back the finish is quite tight with slate and mineral.

**The Cirrus Wine Company
Stellenbosch**

Red Wines

Cirrus Syrah 2003

93

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2005

The nose has very powerful black plum and bilberry with some red fruits. Rich and deep on palate a complex mix of flavours, the black and red fruits underpinned by liquorice. Good mid acidity which balances the sweetness and gives good length to the flavours

Cirrus Syrah 2004

90

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2006

Much more red fruit than black on the nose although there are black plums coming through on the palate. The fruit on the palate has sweetness but there is a firmness to the tannins that rather holds back the fruit at the moment. Richer, riper mix of flavours show at the back given added complexity by the peppery spice on the finish.

Cirrus Syrah 2005 **94**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2007

One might think that with Californian involvement it would be over heavy and hot, it is generous but refined, beautifully balanced, the weight of red fruited Syrah freshened by a touch of Viognier that adds so exquisitely to the perfume. It has the charm of Syrah spiced up by a touch of black pepper.

Cirrus Syrah 2006 **95**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2008

The nose has a fleshy generosity with the fruit ripeness very much in evidence but behind the sweetness there are fresh red berried flavours. The mix of fruits gives excitement, first raspberry and red cherry then bramble all spiced up by some black and white pepper. It is lush, exotic but lighter, brighter and attractively fragrant towards the finish.

Cirrus Syrah 2007 **92** **2011-18**

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

The nose is sweet and fleshy with a lovely depth of flavour. The ripeness of the black fruit mix enriches the mid palate and gives flesh towards the back. There is lots of black pepper coming though giving it a spicy excitement. Ripe black fruited power fleshes out the finish.

Cirrus Syrah 2010 **94** **2013-20**

Syrah 97% 3% Viognier

Tasted at the IWC Taste of Gold June 2013

The nose has the spiciness of black pepper quite fresh and very red fruit dominated. Sweeter blackberry and red cherry give a richer feel to the mid palate seamless and satisfying. The fresh red fruits are more in evidence towards the back bringing out hints of oak spice.

**Constantia Glen
Constantia**

A small property in the Constantia region of the Cape recently developed and making stunning wines.

White Wines

Sauvignon Blanc 2005` **91**

London June 2009

There is a very attractive slightly evolved character on the nose and this comes through on the palate all adding to the complexity. The fleshy middle is balanced by mineral freshness and this combined with a touch of citrus gives a very appealing brightness towards the back.

Sauvignon Blanc 2006

Tasted at Constantia Glen January 2008

92

A cool climate classic, the citrus mix is backed by hints of green pepper, light and fragrant. Sweeter fruit shows on the palate, just a touch more tropical fruit but towards the back the flint crispness re-emerges giving a fragrant, lime, lemon and mineral finish.

London June 2009

92

With some time in bottle the nose has filled out and is packed with tropical fruit and grapefruit. The richness on the palate, melon and grapefruit is nicely balanced by the hints of lemon and gooseberry that lift the flavours towards the finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2007

Tasted at Constantia Glen January 2008

92

Racy, smoky flavours give elegance on the nose and a light flinty freshness to the palate. Lovely and complex, the lemon and lime are underpinned by minerals and flint with towards the back just a touch more weight, hints of floral tropical fruit crisped up by flinty citrus.

London June 2009

93

The nose is quite light the floral fragrances backed by minerals and flint. The palate has hints of the green pea and asparagus, herbal and racy at the start but filled out by the riper feeling tropical fruits. The finish is quite light but has charm.

Sauvignon Blanc 2008

91

London June 2009

There is a lot of character on the nose with the raciness of lemon very upfront giving a lovely freshness. Sweeter more tropical fruits are in evidence on the palate backed by grapefruit and underpinned by lovely flinty freshness. The flavours linger long on the finish.

Tasted at Vintners' Hall June 2010

88 2010-12

It is very crisp with gooseberry and mineral on the nose. There is sweeter grapefruit lending some weight to the mid palate but the finish is quite hard and slightly metallic

Sauvignon Blanc 2009

92 2010-13

Sauvignon Blanc 87% Sémillon 13%

London February 2010

The nose has a smoky character with the crispness of lime, gooseberry and fresh apple. There is sweetness on the palate, a fruit salad of tropical fruits, the sweetness nicely balanced by grapefruit freshness. The flavours last well on the back palate.

Tasted in Lilley May 2011

91 2011-12

Leafy gooseberry and lime give an attractive freshness on the nose. The palate starts fresh with citrus intermingling with gooseberry and apple but there is richer fruit on the mid palate lots of

tropical fruits and white peach giving it depth and breadth. The citric mix is there at the back lifting the flavours and refreshing the finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2010 93 2011-13

Sauvignon Blanc 87% Sémillon 13%

Tasted in Lilley May 2011

The nose is lovely and crisp with lots of gooseberry and green pepper. The freshness that shows on the nose is very much in evidence on the start of the palate but behind all of the freshness are sweeter flavours more tropical fruit in character. The back palate is classical racy and crisp with citric fragrances underpinned by the stronger red and green pepper.

Sauvignon Blanc 2011 93 2012-15

Sauvignon Blanc 90% Sémillon 10%

Tasted in Lilley May 2012

The nose is lovely and fragrant lemon flower in character and the palate starts very fresh with zesty lemon and lime. There are hints of sweetness from the Sémillon in the middle enough richness to balance the citrus but towards the back the crunchy crispness of citrus and the underlying mineral refresh the long finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2014 93 2015-20

Sauvignon Blanc 96% Sémillon 4%

Tasted in Lilley March 2015

Floral, fragrant slightly understated the nose has real charm nettles and gooseberry. The palate has layers of flavour with lime and lemon freshness crisp, racy but under the freshness the small percentage of Sémillon gives a touch of richness a hint of tangerine. Fresh at the back citrus driven flint and mineral the finish has an attractive understated ethereal quality.

Sauvignon Blanc 2015 94 2016-21

Tasted in Lilley April 2016

Grapefruit and lime the nose has a fragrant freshness the start of the palate bright. Sweeter in the middle peachy with hints of tropical fruits but there is balance with underlying tangerine a complex mix of flavours. Depth of fruit at the back yet the finish is lighter, long racy and mineral.

Sauvignon Blanc 2017 93 2017-21

Sauvignon Blanc 98% Semillon 2%

Tasted in Lilley September 2017

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

The nose is vibrant fresh with a citrus mix just a hint of white pepper the start of the palate crisp lime and crunchy apple. Bitter orange, tangerine and pink grapefruit give mid richness breadth of flavour a complex mix. The back palate is citrus dominated and the finish is lean and mineral, elegant, persistent.

Sauvignon Blanc 2018 94 2018-23

Tasted in Lilley August 2018

The nose is vibrant with lime and gooseberry the start of the palate racy and bright lots of fresh fruits. Pineapple and tropical fruits give a hint of mid richness the fruit quite sweet. Fresh at the back tangerine, scraped bitter orange peel and lime the finish long, lean, mineral and persistent.

Constantia Glen Two 2011**94 2012-16*****Sauvignon Blanc 60% Sémillon 40%****Tasted in Lilley May 2012*

There is a lot of rich fruit coming through on the nose and the fleshiness of pineapple and peach enrich the palate. Under all of the sumptuous fleshiness there is citric freshness crunchy grapefruit and lime which balances and brings out the flavours. The back palate is very mineral driven lovely and long the freshness giving the finish elegance and charm.

Constantia Glen Two 2012**94 2013-17*****Sauvignon Blanc 71% Sémillon 29%****Tasted in Lilley September 2013*

Lemon flowers give fragrance and lime gives freshness on the nose and a racy crispness on the start of the palate. The mid palate has more generosity grapefruit, pineapple and tropical fruits yet the finish is citrusy fresh with an attractive mineral crispness.

Constantia Glen Two 2013**95 2014-20*****Sauvignon Blanc 71% Sémillon 29%****Tasted in Lilley June 2014*

The nose has white flowered fragrances bright and fresh fruited with a mix of lemons and limes. There is more depth on the palate ripe fruits honeydew melon and tropical fruits a mid generosity rounded from the time in oak these richer flavours underpinned by apple and mineral the finish fresh peppery and long.

Constantia Glen Two 2014**95 2015-20*****Sauvignon Blanc 70% Sémillon 30%****Tasted in Lilley March 2015**Tasted at the Loeb tasting Westbury Hotel March 2015*

Citrus and elderflower the nose is fragrant and fresh the start of the palate vibrant and lively. Sweeter in the middle greengage, nectarines and tropical fruits a lovely depth of flavour the richer fruit balanced by tangerine and grapefruit freshness at the back. The mix of sweet fruit and fresh fruit lingers on the long finish.

Constantia Glen Two 2015**93 2016-21*****Sauvignon Blanc 71% Sémillon 29%****Tasted in Lilley April 2016*

Ripe fruit on the nose depth of flavour the palate has sweet fruit rich on the mid palate. There is balance with underlying freshness a mix of grapefruit and tangerine. At the back citrus and mineral brighten but there is depth of fruit on the finish with breadth of flavour.

Constantia Glen Two 2016**93 2017-21*****Sauvignon Blanc 70% Semillon 30%****Tasted in Lilley September 2017**Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

Zesty fresh fruit peppery on the nose there is a floral charm white flowers and mimosa. The start of the palate is fresh limes and apple mineral but it fills out in the middle with yellow peach, nectarine and a touch of creamy apricot. Lime fresh at the back racy acidity the finish is long with purity of flavour.

Constantia Glen Two 2017**94 2018-23*****Sauvignon Blanc 68% Semillon 32%****Tasted in Lilley August 2018*

Behind the floral charm the white flowers the mimosa there is a hint of sweetness. Lime and apple refresh the start of the palate but it fills out in the middle with yellow peach, nectarines and creamy apricot. The citrus mix at the back brings out a hint of exciting spicy oak the finish has length, minerals and purity of fruit.

Rosé Wines**Stefanie's Reserve Rosé 2013****92 2014-16*****Malbec 100%****Tasted in Lilley July 2014*

The nose has a fragrant charm summer roses with wild strawberries, bramble and bilberry. The fruit is fresh quite light on the start of the palate with more depth in the middle an underlying sweetness with richer, fleshier strawberry. Fresh fruit shows on the back palate a complex mix of red and lighter black fruits with flinty shale on the long finish.

Red Wines**Merlot 2007****92***Tasted at Constantia Glen January 2008*

The nose is fleshed out by some black plums backed with bilberry and bramble, although lovely and sweet it is not over fat as there is freshness coming from some red fruits, mulberry and strawberry. Lots of power on the finish, rich, ripe and succulent

Malbec 2007**93***Tasted at Constantia Glen January 2008*

It appears very black fruit on the nose, first bilberry then bramble with some plum backed by leathery spice. The palate has real complexity, the fruit enriched by black truffles, the ripeness of the tannins is so well balanced by red fruit freshness that lifts the flavours and lengthens the finish.

Cabernet Franc 2007**93***Tasted at Constantia Glen January 2008*

There is all the floral forest leaf and green pepper that one gets out of this attractive grape. Lots of bilberry and bramble with mint and liquorice very much in evidence, the mid palate is firm, structured but as the tannins are fine grained tannins it has real elegance.

Petit Verdot 2007**92***Tasted at Constantia Glen January 2008*

Behind the bilberry and bramble is some cedar and spice all helping to give racy complexity to the nose. Mocha chocolate fills the mouth but this sweetness is well balanced by the firm tannic structure which, although very evident, is not aggressive and does not over dominate.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2007**93***Tasted at Constantia Glen January 2008*

The first impression is cassis and sloe but behind this is some red fruit that brightens both nose and palate. The mix of fruits has lots of complexity, hints of cedar wood pushing through, the tannins feel firm at the moment and tend to close down the mid and end palate but right at the back is lots of rich fruit.

(The red wines tasted in January 2008 were, at that stage, single varietals. The plan is to blend into a "Bordeaux style" blend using, hopefully, all the different grapes in whatever proportions work. The wines are still maturing in French oak)

Constantia Saddle 2007**92****2009-17*****Cabernet Sauvignon 40% Cabernet Franc 38% Merlot 22%****London June 2009*

Sleek black fruits show themselves on the nose, first some cassis and then bilberry all backed by some herbal cherry. The palate is full of black plum, lush and ripe but there is structure, freshness and spice that lifts the flavours and adds a more classic feel. The fruit lasts well with the feeling of more to show.

Constantia Glen 2007**93****2009-20*****Merlot 32% Cabernet Sauvignon 27% Malbec 18% Cabernet Franc 11.5%******Petit Verdot 11.5%****London June 2009*

There is a lot happening on the nose with lots of black fruits dominating. Behind this black richness is some red cherry and bramble giving freshness all backed by black truffle spice. The palate is voluptuous, generous and supple enriched by dark chocolate and coffee. Tannins are in evidence and although feeling ripe do support the weight of fruit.

*Tasted at Vintners' Hall June 2010***91****2010-14**

Big fat chunky nose packed out with black plum and cassis. There is a lot of ripe fruit on the palate, black plum, blackberry and cassis enriched by dark chocolate. The tannins are in evidence but are ripe giving structure but not aggression.

Constantia Glen Three 2008 93 2012-18

Merlot 57% Cabernet Sauvignon 28% Cabernet Franc 15%

Tasted in Lilley May 2011

The mix of sweet black fruits on the nose is underpinned by bilberry and red cherry freshness. There is a lovely weight of fruit on the palate rich and ripe but behind there are lots of red fruits giving freshness and a leaner more directional feel. The balance between richness and freshness is excellent the fruit flavours long and the oak at the back giving just a hint of spice.

Constantia Glen Three 2009 95 2014-25

Merlot 41% Cabernet Sauvignon 33% Cabernet Franc 26%

Tasted in Lilley June 2014

Black fruited slightly herbal the nose is fresh but the palate has brooding depth with the sweetness of ripe fruit. The mix of fruits gives complexity blackcurrant and black cherry backed by fresher bramble. The tannins are fine the mid palate smooth, supple and polished with lots of rich fruit on the back palate and finish.

Constantia Glen Three 2010 95 2013-23

Merlot 55% Cabernet Franc 25% Cabernet Sauvignon 20%

Tasted in Lilley September 2013

Tasted at the Loeb tasting Westbury Hotel March 2015

Black cherry and damson rich fruits give depth on the nose and fleshy richness on the palate. The tannins are rounded the mid palate supple succulent lovely rich flavours with chocolate and liquorice behind the fruit. Under the fleshiness of the ripe plum there is red cherry freshness that gives a lighter vibrant feel to the finish.

Constantia Glen Three 2011 93 2015-23

Merlot 45% Cabernet Franc 37% Cabernet Sauvignon 18%

Tasted in Lilley March 2015

The nose has a spicy mix of ripe black fruits the palate starts sweet and rich. Cassis and black plum are backed by firmer black cherry the mid palate peppery and spicy. Polished tannins add to the suppleness the seamless velvety fleshiness and although there is enough freshness to balance the finish is rich and sweet fruited.

Tasted in Lilley August 2017

93 2017-22

Black fruit and black pepper there is a lot happening on the nose the palate has sweet fruit rich ripe black cherry, cassis and black plum. The tannins are fine and unobtrusive velvet smooth and supple the richness balanced by bramble freshness. The finish is seamless the sweet fruit backed by peppery spice.

Constantia Glen Three 2012 93 2016-24

Merlot 51% Cabernet Franc 24% Cabernet Sauvignon 25%*Tasted in Lilley May 2015*

Bright on the nose the palate starts with spicy freshness lots of bramble and bilberry. The mid palate has depth a mix of rich black fruits and dark chocolate with the rounded tannins adding to the fleshy suppleness the velvety smoothness. The finish is fresher with some spicy bramble and bilberry.

Constantia Glen Three 2013**93 2017-27****Merlot 59% Cabernet Franc 16% Cabernet Sauvignon 25%***Tasted in Lilley April 2016**Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

The nose has a spicy freshness the start of the palate a mix of red fruits and bramble. Rich and ripe in the middle the fleshy black fruits backed by dark chocolate velvety, supple the fruit supported by fine tannins. Brighter at the back a balancing freshness but the finish has depth black cherry richness.

Constantia Glen Three 2014**94 2017-27****Merlot 67% Cabernet Franc 20% Cabernet Sauvignon 13%***Tasted in Lilley November 2016*

The black fruits on the nose are sweet and ripe the palate fleshy and rich with fine integrated tannins. Velvet smooth in the middle supple but there is balance with spicy herbal bramble towards the back. Although the fruit on the finish is rich and ripe there is just a hint of freshness giving elegance and length.

Constantia Glen Three 2015**94 2018-28****Merlot 62% Cabernet Franc 25% Cabernet Sauvignon 13%***Tasted in Lilley August 2018*

Ripe black fruits give fleshy richness on the nose the palate has breadth and depth of flavour. Fine well integrated tannins support the mid palate is supple, velvet smooth the back palate has a savoury mix of cassis and black cherry the finish has a herbal twist with mineral undertones.

Constantia Glen Five 2008**94 2012-20****Cabernet Franc 36% Cabernet Sauvignon 22% Petit Verdot 15% Malbec 14% Merlot 13%***Tasted in Lilley May 2011*

The nose has a powerful mix of fruits all very black fruit dominated. Although the tannins are firm they are supple and rounded so the fruit richness gives lots of flesh on the mid palate. Blueberries and black cherries are enriched by dark chocolate and coffee beans but the richness is not over fleshy balanced by fresher red fruits and the tannic structure.

Constantia Glen Five 2009**95 2014-24****Petit Verdot 40% Merlot 25% Cabernet Franc 17% Malbec 15% Cabernet Sauvignon 3%***Tasted in Lilley July 2014*

Rich ripe black fruits the nose has depth a powerful mix of flavours and the palate has a brooding black fruited richness. Ripe black plum enriches the mid palate ripe tannins and chocolate adding to the fleshy suppleness. There is enough structure firmer towards the back with herbal spice the finish though is deep rich ripe with black fruited power.

Constantia Glen Five 2010 **95** **2016-26**
Cabernet Sauvignon 26% Petit Verdot 22% Merlot 20% Cabernet Franc 16% Malbec 16%
Tasted in Lilley March 2015

Depth on the nose a brooding richness the palate starts with lots of powerful flavours. Behind the black fruited power bramble and bilberry lighten and refresh an attractive cedar wood spiciness. The mid palate is supple fleshy the tannins seamless and although firmer at the back there is the feel of more sweet fruit to show.

Constantia Glen Five 2011 **94** **2017-28**
Cabernet Sauvignon 31% Petit Verdot 17% Merlot 27% Cabernet Franc 15% Malbec 10%
Tasted in Lilley May 2015
Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

The nose has a mix of black fruits rich flavours and the palate has concentration a brooding black fruited power. The tannins give structure but feel ripe the black fruits the cherry, cassis and plum enriching the back palate. There is an underlying freshness an excellent balance and although rich at the back the finish has charm and elegance.

Constantia Glen Five 2012 **95** **2018-29**
Cabernet Sauvignon 27% Petit Verdot 27% Cabernet Franc 21% Merlot 15% Malbec 10%
Tasted in Lilley November 2016

The nose has depth ripe black fruits the palate a brooding richness with black cherry, cassis and black plum. The mid palate is firm with structured tannins the black fruits herbal and spicy. There is balance with layers of freshness bramble and bilberry under the rich sweet black plum and cassis and although still quite tight on the finish there is the feel of fruit to show.

Constantia Glen Five 2013 **95** **2018-24**
Cabernet Sauvignon 29% Cabernet Franc 29% Merlot 20% Petit Verdot 16% Malbec 6%
Tasted in Lilley September 2017
Tasted in Shillington January 2018

The nose has fragrance and freshness the start of the palate brambles and sloes. Rich and ripe in the middle lots of fleshy black plums, black truffles and black cherries supple and velvety. The tannins are fine and integrated and although there is herbal freshness at the back a hint of peppery spice and tobacco the finish has rich fruit depth of flavour.

Constantia Glen Five 2014 **95** **2019-29**
Cabernet Sauvignon 28% Cabernet Franc 25% Merlot 21% Petit Verdot 12% Malbec 14%
Tasted in Lilley August 2018

The nose is smoky with a mix of black fruits the palate has depth the richness of ripe blackcurrants cherries and damsons. Supple, velvet smooth the underpinning tannins are fine and integrated. It feels fresher at the back a herbal twist, hints of black pepper, spice, tobacco and graphite, style and elegance. The finish is full bodied rich with ripe black fruits.

**Constantia Uitsig
Constantia**

White Wines

Sauvignon Blanc 2013

90 2015-18

Tasted at the Loeb tasting Westbury Hotel March 2015

The nose is very fresh the palate crisp dominated by crunchy gooseberries. There is a richer feel on the mid palate but the back palate is fresh the finish flinty and mineral.

Unwooded Chardonnay 2013

91 2015-19

Tasted at the Loeb tasting Westbury Hotel March 2015

Fresh on the nose the palate has a sweeter feel ripe greengage and a touch of melon. Fresh fruit dominates the back palate with crisp apple on the finish.

Red Wines

Red Blend 2011

91 2015-20

Merlot 75% Cabernet Sauvignon 17% Cabernet Franc 4% Petit Verdot 4%

Tasted at the Loeb tasting Westbury Hotel March 2015

The nose is bright and fragrant lots of black fruits the palate fresh with bilberries and bramble to the fore. Sweeter at the back more cassis showing the finish quite deep and rich fruited.

**Craven Wines
Stellenbosch**

White Wines

Clairette Blanche 2016

89 2018-21

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

Peach and apricot on the nose the palate is lighter with fresh fruits green limes and lemons. Slight lack of depth towards the back and there is a bitter sweet feel on the finish.

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2016

90 2018-22

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

Fresh and fragrant the nose has a mix of bramble and mulberry the palate light and bright at the start. There is a hint of mid sweetness slightly more depth at the back with fresh fruits coming through giving a lighter feel to the finish.

Faure Syrah 2016**91 2018-24***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

Peppery, the red fruits on the nose have a hint of spice the start of the palate fresh sweet in the middle a ripe mix of red and black fruits. The back palate has depth the finish lighter with lots of white pepper excitement.

Firs Syrah 2016**89 2018-24***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

There is herbaceous spiciness, red fruits, the nose bright and fresh. Quite light at the start fragrant and fresh but there is mid sweetness more depth with rich fruit at the back. The finish is firm and fresh a bit dry.

**Crystallum Winery
Hemel-en-Aarde
Walker Bay**

White Wines**Clay Shales Chardonnay 2017****93 2018-23***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

White pears a hint of peach the fruit on the nose is rich and ripe the palate has depth of fruit the sweetness in the middle underpinned by cut apple and a hint of citrus. It fills out at the back and finishes with depth of flavour.

“The Agnes” Chardonnay 2016**92 2017-22***Tasted in Mercers’ Hall October 2017**Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

The fruit is fresh the nose fragrant the start of the palate has apple crispness. It is richer in the middle fleshy greengage honeydew melon layers of flavour lots of complexity. The back palate is citrusy and fresh with a graphite streak the finish has length of flavour.

Red Wines**Peter Max Pinot Noir 2016****90 2018-23***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

Fresh and fragrant the nose is light the palate has a mulberry bramble mix. Sweeter at the back there is a richer feel more depth the finish fresh fruited bright.

Cuvée Cinema Pinot Noir 2016**94 2018-26***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

The fruit on the nose is fresh bilberry mulberry the palate starts with the same fresh fruited mix. Rich and ripe in the middle depth of flavour supple velvet smooth the richness in the middle balanced by an underlying freshness a complex mix of flavours on the finish.

Mababelelandskloof Pinot Noir 2016**92 2018-25***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

Bright fresh the nose has red fruits the palate starts with a mix of red and black. Sweeter in the middle more breadth of flavour the tannins are fine and integrated. The sweetness on the back palate gives way to freshness on the finish.

Paradisium Shiraz Mourvèdre 2014**91 2018-24***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

There is a lot happening on the nose red fruits black fruits slightly herbal bright and fresh. Sweet in the middle the fruit is supported by fine tannins fuller at the back with sweet ripe fruit giving richness and depth on the finish.

Derek Smedley MW