



South Africa

Wineries D - G

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Tasting notes from the following growers:

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South Africa
Wineries D - G

See date & place of tasting in italics

Growers / Wineries are in alphabetical order with area underneath

Darling Cellars
Darling

White Wines

- | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Chenin Blanc "Aurum Fields" 2013 | 89 | 2013-15 |
| <i>Tasted at LWTF May 2013</i> | | |
| The nose is fragrant floral with citrus freshness and slightly sweeter tropical fruits. The start of the palate has citric freshness a lovely mix of fragrances with the sweeter tropical fruits giving a richer feel at the back. | | |
| Chenin Blanc "Arum Fields" 2014 | 89 | 2014-18 |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF June 2014</i> | | |
| Fresh and fragrant on the nose an attractive mix of white flowers. The start of the palate is fresh lime and lemon but there is more depth in the middle sweetish tropical fruits with the freshness at the back giving a lighter feel to the finish. | | |
| Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2013 | 91 | 2013-16 |
| <i>Tasted at LWTF May 2013</i> | | |
| There is a racy freshness on both nose and palate lemon and lime with just a hint of gooseberry. Some tropical fruits show on the mid palate giving slightly more depth and sweetness but the finish is fresh racy with mineral and flint. | | |
| Black Granite Sauvignon Blanc 2014 | 90 | 2014-19 |
| <i>Tasted at the LWF June 2014</i> | | |
| <i>Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015</i> | | |
| Light fresh with citrus and gooseberry the nose has a nice mix of flavours and the palate a crunchy crispness. The mid palate has more depth hints of sweetness but it is the citrus mix that refreshes the finish. | | |
| Growers Selection White Blend "Mariette" 2013 | 90 | 2013-16 |
| <i>Chenin Chardonnay Viognier Riesling Sauvignon Blanc</i> | | |
| <i>Tasted at LWTF May 2013</i> | | |

The nose is very floral and fragrant with a lovely peachy character. The mid palate has a complex mix peach and apricot with some greengage then at the back crisp citrus. The mix of fruits layers of flavour give a lovely complexity.

Red Wines

- Cinsaut Cabernet Sauvignon "Terra Hutton" 2012** 89 2013-17
Tasted at LWTF May 2013
 The red fruited nose is fresh and fragrant and the palate is easy with a mix of red fruits some cassis and bramble all backed by hints of spice. Although quite light on the back palate the finish is fuller with flavours that linger.
- Cinsaut Cabernet Sauvignon "Terra Hutton" 2013** 89 2014-18
Tasted at the LWF June 2014
 There is a lot of cassis on the nose with black cherry richness but the palate is lighter with more of a red fruit influence. Fresh at the back and although black fruits dominate the finish they are light and fresh.
- Growers Selection Red Blend "The Chairman" 2012** 90 2013-16
Shiraz Mourvèdre Cinsaut
Tasted at LWTF May 2013
 Black fruits are more in evidence on the nose and the palate starts with bramble and bilberry. The fruit feels sweet giving richness on the mid palate but towards the back the more fragrant fruits come through with black and white pepper spicing up the finish.
- Black Granite Shiraz 2012** 91 2013-17
Tasted at LWTF May 2013
 The nose is deep black fruited and spicy yet the fruit on the start of the palate is more red fruit in character with redcurrant refreshing the mid palate. Towards the back it is more profound with power and depth of flavour sweet fruited quite lush.
- The Capeman 2013** 92 2013-18
Carignan Barbera Mourvèdre
Tasted at LWTF May 2013
Tasted at the LWF June 2014 92 2014=18
 Fresh on the nose slightly herbal the palate has bramble some red fruits an attractive freshness. The mid palate has more depth a richer mix of fruits and although sweet at the back the finish has freshness.
- Chocoholic Pinotage 2012** 92 2013-18
Tasted at LWTF May 2013

The nose has a leafy freshness and the black and red fruits on the start of the palate are backed by herbal freshness. The mid palate is fuller with lots of ripe flavours their richness though underpinned by some fresh red fruits that give a lighter racier finish.

Chocoholic Pinotage 2013

92 2014-20

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

The fruit is ripe the nose has depth and a rich mix of flavours. Black fruits dominate the start of the palate but mid palate has more of a red fruit character the fruit though still ripe and sweet. There is a fresher feel at the back some raspberry and bitter chocolate yet the finish has the depth with the richness of ripe fruit.

**De Grendel
Durbanville Hills**

A beautiful estate owned by the late Sir David Graaff that gets wonderfully cooling breezes that sweep in from the Atlantic Ocean.

White Wines

Sparkling Wine

90

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

The nose has lots of character, sweet tropical fruit backed by some greengage. It is crisp but not hard, the fruit weight fills out the mid-palate and the mineral apple crispness gives lots of length.

(It will be disgorged towards the end of 2008 or early 2009 and the dosage, the amount of sweet wine added to determine the style, decided at that time)

Sauvignon Blanc 2004

88

South Africa Tasting October 2005

There is good fresh fruit showing on the nose, a mix of gooseberry and tropical fruits. It starts with freshness on the palate with sweetness coming through in the middle. The finish has a mix of flavours asparagus and gooseberry to the fore.

Sauvignon Blanc 2005

89

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The nose is flowery, fragrant with a mix of gooseberry and asparagus. There is a sweet feel to the palate with a fresh, zippy middle. There is a lot of fruit showing towards the finish which has both character and interest.

Sauvignon Blanc 2007 Tijgerberg

93

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

The nose has an attractive fragrance, the crispness of the fruit highlighted by flint and mineral. The mix of white peach and tropical fruit lends more weight to the mid palate, a touch of citrus and apple refreshes the flavours and emphasises the attractive dryness on the finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2007 Koetshuis 95

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

The nose has powerful flavours lots of asparagus and green pea overlaid with white peach and passion fruit. It is rich on the palate, the mix of flavours is excitingly complex and the nervy acidity balances the richness giving the feeling of poise and elegance.

Sauvignon Blanc 2008 93

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

The fresh lime and gooseberry that are very much in evidence on the nose give a lovely crispness. The freshness is well balanced by some tropical fruits giving more weight on the mid palate. Citrus and apple is there on the finish ensuring a racy crispness.

Sauvignon Blanc 2012 92 2013-16

Tasted in Gosmore June 2013

There is a lovely citrus crispness on the nose with a lime driven start to the palate. It fills out in the middle some tropical fruits and grapefruit then the lime cuts in refreshing the back palate and finish.

Winifred 2007 94

Chardonnay Viognier Semillon

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

It has all the richness that comes with good Chardonnay underpinned by the lemon freshness of the Semillon. The nose is floral, fragrant and this comes through on the palate, a charming mix of apricot and yellow peach. Time in oak has added breadth, a richness so well balanced by lemon curd freshness.

Rosé Wines

Rosé 2007 89

Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Pinotage

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

Onion skin in colour, the nose has forest fruits, wild strawberry and raspberry. The sweetness at the start of the palate is refreshed by some cherry backed by citrus. A wine that suits many food flavours or is great just for sipping

Rosé 2008 90

Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Pinotage

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

The floral mix of raspberry and redcurrant is racy and fresh. The fruit has sweetness and this gives some weight on the mid palate. Lovely mineral freshness comes out towards the back giving attractive crispness to the finish

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2006 Op Die Berg

90

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

The richness of black plum is there on the nose and fleshes out the palate, behind is mulberry and red cherry, the freshness balancing the lush fruit. There is a slight lack of length, the feeling of young vines which time will cure.

Merlot 2004

87

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The nose is very light quite fragrant and flowery with some richer black plum in the background. The palate has sweet fruit but the middle lacks a bit of substance. There is fair length but quite it goes quite light on the finish.

Merlot 2006

92

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

The nose is packed with black plum fleshed out by squashy strawberry. The sweetness is not overpowering as behind there are red fruits, hints of cherry and mulberry giving brightness to the flavours. The richness of the fruit fleshes out the finish.

Shiraz 2004

89

South Africa Tasting October 2005

There are a lot of ripe peppery red fruits on the nose. It is round and fleshy on the palate with a mix of mulberry, loganberry and some bramble. The tannins are ripe and there is an attractive weight of fruit on the finish.

Shiraz 2005

93

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

The mix of mulberry and loganberry is fleshed out by some bramble and spiced up by a touch of black pepper. The ripeness of the tannins ensures richness on the mid palate enhanced by the fruit weight. Spicy red fruit is in evidence which lightens and refreshes leaving the finish bright and long.

Shiraz 2006

94

Shiraz – small % + Viognier & Mourvèdre

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

The nose is concentrated, the fruit mix ripe, juicy and fleshy. Bramble and bilberry underpinned by mulberry and spiced up by white pepper ensure an exciting complexity, vigour towards the

back. Despite the power of the fruits there is a feel of elegance and lovely length of flavour. It is approachable this year but 2009 would be better and there is no hurry it will last.

Shiraz 2011 93 2013-18

Tasted in Gosmore June 2013

The mix of red and black fruits is concentrated juicy with the sweetness giving a fleshy richness on the start of the palate. There is red fruited freshness with some peppery spice under the sweet fruit bilberry and redcurrant but it fills out towards the back with the sweeter black fruits dominating.

Shiraz 2013 91 2016-23

Tasted in Gosmore April 2016

Concentrated black fruits the nose has richness the palate power black cherry and cassis. Fresher in the middle firm tannins the fruit underpinned by black pepper spice the finish has concentration and depth.

Rubaiyat 2006 94

Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Merlot Malbec

Tasted at De Grendel February 2008

It is very black fruited on the nose, cassis then bilberry with hints of sloe and black truffle. The palate is structured, the tannins are firm but ripe so there is nothing aggressive or drying. Concentrated and complex the fruit has a dark chocolate richness invigorated by a touch of green pepper and the hint of oak.

Omar Khayyám's poetry was written in quatrains, fascinating verses of four lines.

De Grendel's Rubáiyát uses a "quatrain" of Bordeaux grapes to produce satisfying richness and exciting complexity.

**Delheim
Stellenbosch**

White Wines

Chardonnay Sur Lie 2009 91 2010-12

Tasted at Mosimann's July 2010

Tasted at The Lord Mayor's Banquet Guildhall November 2010

The nose has depth of fruit rich apricot and greengage underpinned by some fresher lime. There is richness of flavour on the palate, round and fleshy yet well balanced by acidity. The layers of flavour give complexity with the fruit mix lingering on the finish.

Red Wines

Merlot 2009 87 2012-14

Tasted at the Carlton Club May 2012

The nose is remarkably light red fruited red plum more than black. The mid palate lacks weight of fruit a slight hollow and the fruit seems to be drying on the finish.

Sweet White Wines**Edelspatz 2009****89 2010-16***Tasted at Mosimann's July 2010*

Peaches and apricots are very prominent on both nose and palate. It is sweet at the start with some fresher tropical fruits coming through on the mid palate, the sweetness taking over and enriching the finish.

**De Morgenzon
Stellenbosch****White Wines****Maestro White 2011****92 2013-17*****Roussanne Chenin Viognier Chardonnay****Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013*

There is a leafy herbal quality on the nose with a rich mix of flavours on the palate. Peach and apricot are backed by apple and lime freshness an attractive complex mix with the sweetness of the fruit filling out the back palate. The finish has a hint of spicy oak adding to the complexity.

Maestro White 2013**92 2014-18*****Roussanne Chenin Blanc Viognier Chardonnay****Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Peach apricot on the nose the start of the palate has depth of flavour. It feels lighter in the middle leafy and citrusy but fills out at the back with fleshy white peach.

DMZ Chenin 2012**90 2013-17***Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013*

Tropical fruits feature on both nose and palate quite sweet and rich in the middle but towards the back it is fresher with more of a citrus character yet the finish has all the richness of white peach.

DMZ Chenin Blanc 2013**90 2014-18***Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Hints of peach on the nose quite sweet yet the palate starts fresher but has sweet fruit in the middle. Citrus refreshes the back palate and the finish is light with a mix of fragrances.

Reserve Chenin 2012**91 2013-17**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

The nose has depth and breadth of flavour tropical fruits white peach lovely ripe fruit. The fleshy richness is balanced by freshness in the middle with the richer fruit filling out the finish.

Chenin Blanc Reserve 2013 92 2014-18

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

The fruit is sweet ripe peach apricot richness and although the palate is rich the freshness at the back refreshes and lightens the finish.

DMZ Sauvignon Blanc 2012 90 2013-16

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

The tropical fruits on the nose are backed by fresher flavours a citrus and apple mix. The freshness on the mid palate brings out the fragrances spring flowers and although the finish is light and crisp there is a hint of tropical fruit sweetness at the back.

DMZ Chardonnay 2012 91 2013-17

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

Crisp apple refreshes the nose and the start of the palate but there is sweetness the richness of melon and greengage on the mid palate. Towards the back the fresher flavours dominate with a lovely citrus and apple mix on the finish.

DMZ Chardonnay 2013 91 2014-19

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

The nose has some rich fruit the palate full with ripe greengage all balanced by apple at the back. The finish has a mix of flavours citric freshness with greengage melon fleshiness.

Rosé Wines

Garden Vineyard Rosé 2012 89 2013-15

Syrah Grenache Mourvèdre*Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013*

The richness of ripe strawberries fills out the nose and the start of the palate has sweetness and depth of flavour. Behind redcurrant and raspberry refresh and give a lighter feel to the finish.

Garden Vineyards Rosé 2013 90 2014-17

Syrah Mourvèdre Grenache*Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Light fragrant red fruited the nose is fresh and the start of the palate has a mix of red fruits underpinned by herbal leafiness. The finish is fragrant and fresh fruited.

Red Wines

Maestro Red 2011 93 2013-18

Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Petit Verdot Malbec Cabernet Franc*Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013*

The nose has lots of different flavours with rich cassis to fresh bilberry and the palate is as complex with layers of flavour. The fruit is ripe the palate supple fleshy with liquorice and chocolate but towards the back there is enough freshness to balance with some leafy and herbal bramble.

DMZ Syrah 2011**92 2013-18***Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013*

The nose is vibrant fresh with a mix of red fruits and the start of the palate has a peppery freshness. There is a sweetness to the fruit on the mid palate layers of flavour with the sweeter fruit enriching back palate and finish.

**De Wetshof
Robertson**

White Wines**Limestone Hill Chardonnay 2010****91 2011-14***Tasted in Victoria Falls Zimbabwe August 2011*

There is a lot of fresh greengage on the nose and although this seems to dominate the start of the palate underneath is ripe sweet honeydew melon. There a lovely balance between freshness and richness with the crispness of apple coming through and giving a lovely freshness on the finish.

**DGB
Wellington**

Red Wines**Culembourg Cape Red 2010****84 2011-13***Tasted at Johannesburg Airport South Africa August 2010*

The nose is very fresh all very red fruited. The raspberry and red cherry that feature on the palate give it a harshness and bitterness. It lacks any charm.

**Diemersdal Estate
Durbanville**

Red Wines**Private Collection 2010****91 2018-23*****Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec***

Tasted in Raffin Green July 2018

The nose is firm with a mix of black fruits the start of the palate fresh. Sweet in the middle the cassis black cherry mix is quite rich a hint of bitter chocolate and although there is rich fruit at the back it tends to dry on the finish.

**Diemersfontein / Raats
Wellington**

Red Wines

Cabernet Franc 2007 **91** **2011-15**

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

The ripe fleshy fruit gives richness on the nose and fills out the palate. Black cherry and elderberry are underpinned by bramble lots of complexity. The finish has a spicy green peppery feel.

Goshawks Chant 2009 **91** **2011-16**

Bordeaux grape base with Shiraz

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

The mix of blackberry and black cherry has an underlying richness and the mid palate is full of ripe flavours but towards the back there is a bit of red fruit freshness with some black pepper on the finish.

**Domaine des Dieux
Hemel-en-Aarde**

White Wines

Chardonnay 2013 **93** **2018-22**

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

Ripe pears the nose has depth the palate a rich mix of flavours. Breadth and sweetness in the middle with underlying apple giving balance and freshness layers of flavour lots of complexity. Ripe fruit fills out the back palate and enriches the finish.

**Doolhof Estate
Wellington**

White Wines

Chardonnay 2006 **89**

Tasted at Doolhof February 2008

Fresh greengage is supported by sweeter honeydew melon. The palate feels ripe fleshy succulent flavours underpinned by toasty oak. The fleshy ripe fruit is well integrated with vanilla and hazelnut all adding to the complexity.

Chardonnay 2007**88***Tasted at Doolhof February 2008*

The fragrant greengage fruit is backed by some lime giving freshness on the start of the palate. Sweeter melon fleshes out the mid palate but there is citrus underpinning giving brightness on the finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2007**88***Tasted at Doolhof February 2008*

Nettles and minerals overlay the mix of pear and tropical fruit. The palate is sweet at the start, the acidity of the citrus fruits refreshes the mid palate and leaving the finish flinty crisp.

Red Wines**Cape Roan 2006****89*****Shiraz Malbec Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot****Tasted at Doolhof February 2008*

A fascinating mix of flavours, the red fruit and peppery spice of Shiraz is very much in evidence with behind and supporting it some fleshy black plum and ripe cassis. Towards the back are hints of black truffles, leathery spice coming out on the finish.

Cape Boar 2004**88*****Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Shiraz****Tasted at Doolhof February 2008*

The powerful black fruits on the nose are very dominated by blackcurrant with underneath some fresher bilberry, herbal spice and hints of red fruits. The palate has depth, layered fruit, complexity but it is rather dominated by aggressive tannins.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2005**89***Tasted at Doolhof February 2008*

The nose is packed with blackcurrants, rich and ripe. Rounded tannins help to flesh out the palate, lots of dark chocolate adding to the sweetness. There is a touch of peppery spice, not surprising with some Shiraz in the blend.

Merlot 2005**89***Tasted at Doolhof February 2008*

Smoky black plum fleshes out the nose and gives lushness on the palate. The ripeness of the fruit combined with rounded tannins ensures fleshy richness on the mid palate and depth of fruit on the finish.

Pinotage 2006

87

Tasted at Doolhof February 2008

The fruit on the nose is ripe, quite fleshy and lush with more red fruits, strawberry and mulberry, in evidence than black. On the palate the richness is well balanced by freshness, lots of raspberry fruit. It is just a touch short on the finish.

Durbanville Hills
Durbanville Hills

Sparkling White Wine**Sparkling NV**

84

Sauvignon Blanc 100%*Tasted in the Carlton Club November 2017*

The nose is light and fresh perfumed the palate lacks fruit a hint of sweetness but lime and lemon at the back no length and the bubbles disappear very quickly.

Du Toitskloof
Worcester

Red Wines**Fairhills Cabernet Sauvignon 2010**

87

2011-15

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

The mix of blueberry and cassis on the nose is sweet, the fruit feeling ripe. The mid palate lacks a bit of weight and the finish tends to be a bit short.

Pinotage 2010

89

2011-15

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

The nose is remarkably sweet fruited giving richness on both nose and palate. Some red fruits show towards the back refreshing and giving a lighter feel to the finish.

Eekhorning Wit
De Kleine Wijn Koop
Swartland

White Wines**Eekhorning Wit 2017**

91

2018-21

Chenin Blanc Marsanne Grenache Blanc Viura*Tasted in the Royal College of Physicians February 2018*

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

The nose has an attractive mix of fragrances white flowers the palate starts with lime freshness but it fills out in the middle with white peach and mandarin orange. Citrus fruit at the back the finish is floral and fresh.

**Engelbrecht Els Vineyards
Stellenbosch**

Red Wines

Engelbrecht Els 2003 **95**

South Africa Tasting October 2005

Sweet chocolate and blackberry spice is there on the nose. It has lovely rounded flavours on the palate with layers of fruit both black and red. The tannins are firm at the moment but fine and ripe. There is a very complex feel to the finish which although concentrated has an elegant length.

Engelbrecht Els Vineyards Proprietor's Blend 2003 **94**

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The nose is very rich with cassis as the predominant flavour. There is sweetness and depth of fruit on the palate, spice plum and mulberry with some truffle chocolate. There is layered complexity and excellent length, enjoyable now but will benefit from another twelve months or so in bottle.

**Ernie Els
Stellenbosch**

White Wines

Big Easy White 2011 **90** **2011-13**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

It is very floral with fragrant spring blossoms under which is fresh lime and lemon. Sweeter peach gives some weight on the mid palate but towards the back the citrus mix tends to dominate giving a lovely freshness on the finish.

Big Easy Chenin 2011 **90** **2012-15**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

The nose is tropical fruit driven quite sweet and the ripe mix of flavours fills out the start of the palate. There is mid freshness a touch of grapefruit and this gives a lighter feel on the finish.

Big Easy Chenin 2012 **90** **2013-16**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

There is a lot happening on the nose apple and grapefruit freshness with hints of spice and a touch of oak. There is some sweetness on the mid palate but the overall feel is one of freshness of green limes, herbal and leafy.

Big Easy Chenin Blanc 2013

91 2013-16

Tasted at the Leathersellers November 2013

Tropical fruits give sweetness the apple and citrus freshness. The ripe flavours fill out the mid palate quite lush and rich but towards the back its fresher leafy herbal and racy with a good long finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2011

91 2011-14

Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011

The nose is sweet with a lovely tropical fruit character. Freshness comes through on the palate with the mix of sweeter fruits underpinned by citrus and a touch of gooseberry. There is a lovely mix of flavours towards the back and the fruit ripeness gives flesh on the finish.

Sauvignon Blanc 2013

91 2013-16

Tasted at the Royal College of Physicians November 2013

Under the tropical fruits the citrus mix is racy and fresh a lovely balance. Layers of fruit give complexity the richer flavours towards the back giving way to lime and lemon lifting the flavours on the finish.

Red Wines

Big Easy Red 2009

93 2011-17

Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Grenache Mourvèdre Viognier

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

The fruit is very ripe but not over fleshy as under the ripe cassis are red fruits and herbal freshness. Rounded tannins help to ensure fleshiness on the mid palate and a lush ripe fruited finish. The name sums up the suppleness of the palate.

Big Easy Red 2010

90 2011-14

Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Grenache Mourvèdre Viognier

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

There is an attractive freshness on the nose all very red fruit in character. Under the raspberry is richer red cherry and then towards the back more black fruits the sweetness giving a fleshy richness. The finish has the red fruit freshness found on the nose lovely and bright.

Big Easy Red Blend 2011

92 2013-18

Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Cinsaut Mourvèdre Grenache Viognier

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

Nose and palate are rich ripe fruited with layers of flavour, cassis and black cherry underpinned by mulberry and redcurrant. The tannins give backbone but feel ripe the mid palate is supple

then towards the back the red fruits have more influence refreshing and bringing out the spices and a leafy quality.

Big Easy Red 2012 92 2014-19

Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Grenache Mourvèdre Viognier

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Fresh and red fruited the nose is quite light with red fruits tending to dominate the start of the palate. There is more depth in the middle fruit sweetness and this gives a richer feel to the finish.

Merlot 2009 92 2011-17

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

Lots of black plums, ripe and sweet, flesh out the nose and palate. The ripeness of the tannins adds to the supple richness but behind all of the ripe sweet fleshiness there are some red fruits that help to balance ensuring that it is not jammy and the finish has a lighter feel.

Merlot 2010 92 2013-20

Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011

The nose has a youthful exuberance all very plum driven. Ripe black plum fills out the mid palate the fleshy richness balanced by red plum freshness and although there is a lot of fruit showing towards the back the tannins are still quite obvious and need time to integrate.

Merlot 2011 93 2013-18

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

There is an attractive freshness on the nose with lots of red plums. The palate though is sweeter packed with ripe flavours more black fruit in character with fleshy plum and cassis. There are layers of flavour lots of complexity.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 93 2011-18

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

Ripe cassis vies with rich sloe and blackberry for dominance. The mid palate has dark chocolate rich deep voluptuous and sweet but all of this fleshiness is balanced by some freshness bilberry and elderberry with a liquorice coffee mix giving lots of complexity towards the back.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 92 2014-19

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Cassis black cherry the nose is rich the palate has weight and depth of fruit. Chocolate and liquorice enrich the mid palate and although there is mid sweetness the finish is lighter and fresher.

Proprietor's Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 95 2014-22

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Rich on the nose the palate has depth and richness lots of ripe black plum, cassis and black cherry underpinned by liquorice and dark chocolate. There are some fresher flavours under the sweetness but the black fruit mix is there enriching the finish.

Proprietor's Syrah 2009 92 2011-17

Syrah 95% Viognier 5%

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

The fruit feels ripe enriching both nose and palate. There are layers of flavour black cherry and red cherry with fleshier mulberry behind. The suppleness on the palate is helped by the rounded tannins and then towards the back there is red fruit freshness enlivened by black pepper.

Proprietor's Syrah 2010 93 2012-20

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

Black fruits seem to dominate with lots of black cherry and bramble but behind are mulberries and wild strawberries still quite sweet. There is freshness on the back palate and this tends to ease the ripe rich feel and bring out the peppery spiciness on the finish.

Proprietor's Syrah 2011 92 2014-20

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Peppery spicy the nose is fresh with a strong red fruited influence. The sweeter fruit in the middle is underpinned by freshness giving a lighter feel to the finish and bringing out black and white pepper spiciness.

Proprietor's Blend 2007 94 2010-18

Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Merlot Malbec Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

The fruit is rich and powerful and both nose and palate have a black fruited influence. Cassis and black plum is spiced up by black truffle and black pepper but there is some red cherry and bilberry refreshing that gives a lighter more elegant finish

Proprietor's Blend 2009 92 2013-20

Cabernet Sauvignon 62% Shiraz 21% Merlot 5% Cabernet Franc 5% Malbec 5% Petit Verdot 2%

Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011

The nose is a bit tight at the moment and the palate flavours rather held back by tannic firmness. The black fruit mix on the mid palate feels ripe giving more weight a richer feel but despite this richer meatier middle the back palate is rather closed down at the moment.

Proprietor's Blend 2010 93 2013-22

Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Merlot

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

Although the nose is rich and sweet fruited there is a fresher firmer feel at the back. Cassis, black plum and ripe tannins give mid richness and suppleness but there is lots of red cherry underneath refreshing and giving a slight tightness on the back palate.

Proprietor's Blend 2011 93 2014-20

Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Merlot Malbec Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Although the nose has a strong black fruited influence the start of the palate is lighter with red fruits behind the black. Under the mid freshness black cherry and plum enrich but the finish is lighter herbal fresh with hints of pepper.

Signature 2006 95 2010-20

Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Merlot Malbec Petit Verdot

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

The fruit is deep serious and concentrated with the richness of ripe blackcurrant and sloe. Black truffles, dark chocolate, coffee and liquorice all ensure complexity. Ripe tannins give suppleness and add to the richness. There is a lovely spice character on the long finish.

Signature 2007 93 2013-22

Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Malbec Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot

Tasted at Mercers' Hall November 2011

Red fruits seem to dominate the nose but behind there is some cassis and black cherry. The fruit on the palate is sweet the mid richness helped by rounded tannins. Layers of flavour give complexity a attractive mix of bramble and hedgerow fruits.

Signature 2008 95 2012-20

Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Malbec 2008

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

The nose is rich fruited with depth of flavour yet there is freshness lightening the concentrated flavours. Cassis and black cherry give the power ripe black plum the mid fleshiness and the black truffle the spiciness on the finish.

Signature Blend 2011 93 2015-22

Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Malbec Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

The nose is quite tight the palate fresh with a mix of red cherry, bramble and herbal bilberry. It fills out in the middle richer fruit more depth the fruit feels ripe the tannins mellow. It finishes with a youthful freshness.

Ernie Els 2001 95

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004

As the name would suggest the wine has style. The nose is complex with different fruit flavours showing and there are hints of pepper and truffle. The palate is lovely and supple with minerals and spicy fruit and excellent balance. The finish has a good length of mixed flavours that linger.

Ernie Els 2002**94***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2005*

Another stylish wine!! The nose has a lot happening, plum and mulberry interspersed with pepper and spice. The palate is supple and rounded with the weight of fruit balanced by a mix of minerals. The wine has great length and one feels so much more to come. Patience is needed.

Ernie Els 2004**95*****Cabernet Sauvignon 62% Merlot 24% Petit Verdot 6% Cabernet Franc 4% Malbec 4%****Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008*

Classic on both nose and palate with cassis very much in evidence but well supported by black plum and bilberry, green pepper and truffles come through towards the back. The palate is stylish, structured but ripe tannins, layer upon layer of flavour all backed by minerals.

Ernie Els 2005**95*****Cabernet Sauvignon 59% Merlot 25% Petit Verdot 6% Cabernet Franc 5% Malbec 5%****Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009*

There is a lot happening on the nose, first sweet black fruits and then fresher red. Layers of flavour on the palate give complexity. Bramble is in evidence with a touch of cassis and enriched by damson. There is a spice to the fruit with behind it lots of lovely black truffle.

**Excelsior Winery
Robertson**

Red Wines**Cabernet Sauvignon 2009****84****2011-14***Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011*

The black fruits on the nose have an underlying green herbal character and this grassiness features on the palate. Although the mid palate is slightly sweeter the herbal freshness dominates leaving the finish rather hard.

**Fable Mountain
Tulbagh**

Red Wines**Night Sky 2014****93****2018-24**

Grenache Syrah Mourvèdre*Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

This southern Rhône blend has a complex mix of flavours on the nose. The palate is sweet and ripe breadth of flavour in the middle with spicy peppery red fruited freshness on the finish – an attractive mix of flavours.

Fairview**Paarl****White Wines****Chardonnay 2010****91 2011-14***Tasted at Imbabali Resort Zimbabwe August 2011*

Fresh greengage dominates the nose and although on the palate there is some richer sweeter melon in the middle the greengage and apple that show towards the back refresh bring out the flavours on the finish.

Darling Chenin Blanc 2015**89 2015-18***Tasted at Mercers' Hall September 2015**Tasted at the Liberty tasting The Oval January 2016*

Citrus freshness the nose is light with white flowers the palate is richer with mid depth a mix of tropical fruits. The finish is bright racy with grapefruit freshness and floral fragrances the flavours lingering.

Fairview Darling Chenin Blanc, 2016**90 2016-20***Tasted at the Liberty tasting The Oval September 2016*

The nose is fresh and floral but the palate starts with depth of fruit ripe tropical fruits some mid sweetness. The underlying grapefruit refreshes an attractive balance and although there is sweet fruit on the back palate the finish is fresh and fragrant with flavours that linger.

Fairview Darling Chenin Blanc 2016**91 2017-20***Tasted in Lincoln's Inn March 2017*

Fresh apples on the nose fragrant with freshly mown hay the start of the palate is bright. There is mid sweetness pineapple and tropical fruits but under the sweetness lime and lemon give freshness the back palate and finish clean and dry.

Fairview Darling Chenin Blanc 2017**90 2017-21***Tasted at the Liberty tasting The Oval September 2017*

The nose is fragrant and fresh a hint and citrus the palate starts with ripe tropical fruits some mid sweetness. Underlying grapefruit refreshes an attractive balance and although there is sweet fruit on the back palate the finish is fresh and fragrant with flavours that linger.

Fairview Darling Chenin Blanc 2018**90 2018-22**

Tasted in Mercers' Hall October 2018

Ripe white peach gives the nose depth of flavour the palate starts quite sweet with a mix of tropical fruits. There is a balancing freshness from underlying tangerine and grapefruit, peachy richness towards the back, fragrant and fresh on the finish.

Fairview Viognier 2014**88 2016-19***Tasted in the Carlton Club September 2016*

The nose is light and floral the palate has a mix of fragrances fresh at the start with a richer more peach apricot middle. Tropical fruit on the back-palate freshness and fragrance but there is a sweeter richer feel to the finish.

Red Wines**Pinotage 2010****91 2012-16***Tasted at the Liberty Wines tasting January 2012*

There is a lovely mix of flavours on the nose bramble and red cherry all quite fresh. The mid palate is richer with red fruits tending to dominate. The freshness at the back brings out the leafy herbal spiciness.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009**92 2011-17***Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011*

The nose is very firm with lots of black cherry in evidence but the palate is sweeter richer with more of a cassis and chocolate influence. There is a lovely complexity black cherry, sloe with ripe cassis and liquorice. The finish is deep and profound.

Sweet White Wines**"La Beryl" Blanc 2010****90 2012-17***Tasted at the Innholders February 2012*

Although the nose has all the richness of ripe apricots the palate feels quite fresh with more of a green lime character. It seems to lack a little concentration in the middle although towards the back yellow peach and apricot show giving more weight on the finish.

"La Beryl" Blanc 2016**89 2018-22****Chenin Blanc***Tasted in Innholders' Hall April 2018*

The nose is light the start of the palate fresh with citrus behind the sweeter tropical fruits. Ripe and rich in the middle yellow peach and apricot backed by candied peel the finish lighter with hazel nut fragrances.

**False Bay
Somerset West**

White Wines

- Chenin Blanc 2012** **89** **2015-18**
Tasted at the Carlton Club September 2015
 Fresh on the nose the start of the palate has a mix of citrus fruits. There is more of a tropical fruit character in the middle hints of sweetness but at the back it is light with grapefruit freshness.
- Chenin Blanc 2014** **87** **2016-19**
Tasted at the Carlton Club November 2016
 The nose has a mix of tropical fruits the palate has fair depth at the start. There is mid freshness a lack of complexity with the finish fresh but lacking in length.
- Chenin Blanc 2016** **87** **2017-20**
Tasted at the Carlton Club September 2017
 The fruit on the nose is quite sweet white peach and apricot the start of the palate fleshy. There is a hint of mid freshness a slight lack of balance and a lack of fruit at the back.

**First Cape Wines
Breede River Valley**

White Wines

- Chenin Blanc 2015** **87** **2016-18**
Tasted in Lilley July 2016
 Greengage on the nose the palate is light with lime freshness. Slightly sweeter at the back the finish is light and lacks a bit of character.

**Forge Mill
Western Cape**

White Wines

- Chenin Blanc 2004** **87**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005
 Flowery, fragrant and fresh, Light and easy on the palate with hints of greengage and kiwi fruit. Has an attractive length of flavour
- Chenin Blanc 2005** **88**

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The nose has lots of fresh fruit with floral, elderflower and orange blossom fragrance. Lime, greengage and kiwi fruit show on the palate. The crispness is well balanced with some sweet fruit. Not that complex but easy fresh and fruit driven.

Chenin Blanc 2005 88*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006*

The nose is fresh fruit with floral, elderflower and orange blossom fragrances. Lime, greengage and kiwi fruit show on the palate. The crispness is well balanced with some sweet fruit. Not that complex but easy fresh and fruit driven.

Chenin Blanc 2006 88*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2007*

The nose is very light with a flowery elderflower and lime fragrance. Freshness on the palate, the lime and kiwi fruit is underpinned by a sweeter greengage character. It is easy light and not that complex.

Chenin Blanc 2007 89*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008*

Although the nose is light there is an attractive mix of fragrances, elderflower backed by fresh lime. Fresh feel to the palate with sweeter, slightly richer flavours coming through towards the middle. The flowery greengage is blended in with some kiwi and lime.

Chenin Blanc 2008 88*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009*

The nose is light but fragrant with the tropical fruit refreshed by a touch of lime. This mix of sweeter more tropical fruit crisped up by some green lime gives an attractive mix of flavours on the palate.

Chenin Blanc 2011 88 2012-14*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The fruit on the nose is sweet rather hiding fruit identity. There are rich flavours on the palate fleshy just lacking a bit of balancing freshness and character.

Bush Vine Chenin 2010 88 2011-13*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011*

It has some attractive fragrances on the nose tropical fruits with hints of white peach. More of a citrus character refreshes the start of the palate with richer sweeter fruit showing towards the back.

Sauvignon Blanc 2004 86*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005*

There are lots of crisp green apples on the nose. Mix of grassy gooseberry and tropical fruit on the palate, fair weight of flavour but lacking a little length.

Sauvignon Blanc 2007**87***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008*

Very light green apple character dominates the nose, more of a tropical fruit mix shows on the palate. It is very crisp but there is some sweetness towards the back slightly easing the firmness.

Sauvignon Blanc 2008**88***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009*

The nose has a mix of light grassy gooseberry with a touch of green apple. Sweeter more tropical fruit shows on the mid palate with the gooseberry and apple freshness coming through crisping up the finish

Rosé Wines**Anvil Rose 2004****88***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose is very full with lots of ripe fruit showing. A mix of redcurrant and raspberry comes through on taste and the freshness lifts and lengthens the flavours.

Rosé Cabernet Reserve 2006**87***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2007*

The nose is minty with cassis and sloe and there is sweet fruit on the palate with a freshness showing at the back. It is easy, fruity and not that complex. A good summer sipper!!

Red Wines**Cinsaut Cabernet 2003****87***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005*

The nose is very fragrant and sweet, a mix of black cherry and raspberry. Ripe fruit fills out the palate, flowery easy and fresh. There is a nice mix between the liveliness and the suppleness of ripe fruit.

Cinsaut / Cabernet 2004**88***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose has a flowery mix of bramble and red cherry. It is soft on taste, easy and supple, an attractive mix of blackberry, redcurrant and mulberry. The mid palate freshness lengthens the flavours and the finish is full of sweet fruit.

Cinsaut Cabernet 2005**89***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2007*

Fleshy and ripe, the nose is packed out with a mass of black and red fruits. Sweet and fleshy on the palate yet full of the exuberance of youth, the bramble and strawberry is upfront, easy, mouth filling and uncomplicated

Cinsaut Cabernet 2006 **88**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008

On the nose the red fruits, raspberry and mulberry are more in evidence but the palate seems much more bilberry dominated the sweeter fruit giving more flesh. Lighter flowery red fruits feature quite strongly on the finish.

Cinsaut Cabernet 2007 **88**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009

The raspberry on the nose gives freshness whilst behind is some sweeter strawberry giving some weight on the palate. A mix of red and lighter black lends interest to the back palate.

Shiraz Cabernet Mourvèdre 2005 **89**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2007

Sweet, ripe fruit comes through on the nose. The red fruits are underpinned by some cassis and bilberry. This mix of flavours comes through on the palate, the sweetness of fruit being well balanced by a mid palate freshness and shows on the finish.

Shiraz Cinsaut 2010 **88** **2011-14**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

The nose although light is quite fragrant with red fruits tending to dominate the hints of bramble that lie underneath. Although slightly sweeter and richer towards the back there is not a lot of fruit showing on the finish.

Shiraz Cinsaut 2011 **88** **2012-15**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

The nose is light and the palate lacks fruit richness. There is sweeter fruit showing towards the back with some wild strawberry and bramble but the finish is quite light and fresh fruited.

Pinotage 2006 **87**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008

The slightly green herbal edge to the red fruits is so typical of many Pinotage. The fruit is quite ripe giving more weight to the mid palate but the herbal freshness that comes through tends to obscure the sweetness and dominate the finish.

Pinotage 2007 **88**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009

The nose has a mix of flavours, bramble and quite fresh bilberry backed by mulberry. The fruit feels sweet on the start of the palate but there are some tannins showing in the middle which gives a drier feel to the finish.

Pinotage 2010**88 2012-15***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

The mainly red fruit on the nose is backed by a leafy herbal character. There is sweetness of flavour in the middle a touch of dark chocolate with the fresh fruits that come through towards the back bringing out the spice.

Shiraz 2004**89***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006*

There are a lot of juicy fruit fragrances on the nose. Sweet raspberry and loganberry on palate with a touch of peppery spice showing adding a zest to the flavours. Nice length.

Shiraz 2006**88***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008*

The red fruits on the nose feel sweet and are freshened by the hints of black pepper. Although not that complex there is a fair mix of mulberry and bilberry enhanced by a touch of peppery spice.

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

The nose is fleshy with ripe sweet plum and this ripe fruit fills out the palate which is rounded and soft. The firmer structure towards the back gives the wine length.

Merlot 2004**88***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006*

Ripe plum dominates the nose. There is lots of fruit on the palate, quite soft and lush. Some oak shows at the moment but this will quickly be integrated with the fruit. There is an attractive length of flavour.

Merlot 2005**87***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2007*

Although plum features quite strongly on the nose it is surprisingly fresh. The palate is light, there is some sweet fruit fleshing out the middle but towards the back the fresher minty black fruits give lightness on the finish.

**Foxwood Vineyards
Coastal Region**

White Wines**Chenin Blanc 2014****91 2016-19***Tasted at the Royal College of Physicians June 2016*

The fruit on the nose is ripe and sweet the palate has white peach and tropical fruits richness sweetness depth of flavour. Lime and lemon balance the back palate lighter bright and fresh the finish though has the richness of ripe fruit.

**Franschhoek Cellars
Franschhoek**

White Wines

Freedom Cross Chenin Blanc 2011 **89** **2012-14**
Coastal Region

Tasted at the Carlton Club May 2012

The nose has a citrus freshness with at the back some sweetness more tropical fruit in character. There is a mix on the palate sweet fruit underpinned by freshness a slight bitter sweet feel easy not complex but refreshing.

Freedom Cross Chenin Blanc 2012 **89** **2012-15**
Coastal Region

Tasted at Lincoln's Inn October 2012

It is light with a fragrant charm the freshness on the nose and start of the palate giving way to richer sweeter tropical fruits. The fruit lasts well on the finish with freshness yet fruit sweetness on the finish.

Freedom Cross Sauvignon Blanc 2017 **87** **2017-20**

Tasted in the Ship Inn Red Wharf Bay Anglesey September 2017

Citrus freshness on the nose the palate is fuller with pineapple and a hint of apricot. There is an underlying freshness bright at the back with a fuller tropical fruit finish.

**Gable & Grace
Western Cape**

White Wines

Chenin Blanc Pinot Grigio 2017 **86** **2018-19**

Tasted in Lilley August 2018

The nose has rich fruit the palate fleshy pineapple quite sweet at the start There is a hint of freshness but not enough to balance the fatness the fleshy ripe fruit.

**Gabrielskloof
Walker Bay**

White Wines

Elodie Swartland Chenin Blanc 2016**92 2018-21***Tasted in the Royal College of Physicians June 2018*

Sweet fruit both nose and palate have a complex mix of tropical fruits the sweetness on the palate balanced by underlying freshness. There are layers of flavour the back palate tangerine fresh the finish has the sweetness of ripe tropical fruits.

Viognier 2011**90 2013-16***Tasted at the Royal College of Physicians November 2013*

The fruit is lush with lots of ripe apricot the nose packed with flavour. Fleshy fruit fills the palate supple and ripe but there is enough freshness to balance and give a slightly lighter feel to the finish.

**The Garajeest
Somerset West**

White Wines**Jim 2015****90 2017-19****Semillon***Tasted at the Red Squirrel Tasting September 2017*

Breadth of fruit ripe peach the nose has depth the palate sweetness fleshy ripe tropical fruits. There is underlying freshness a hint of citrus but it is the sweet ripe fruit that fills out the back palate and gives richness on the finish.

Semillon 2017**92 2017-21****Elgin***Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017*

Bright and fresh the nose has a mix of citrus fruits the palate is richer with ripe fruit depth of flavour some tropical fruits in the middle. Bright at the back with lemon freshness but it fills out and finishes with richness.

Red Wines**Bruce Cabernet Franc 2015****93 2017-22****Elgin***Tasted at the LWF Olympia May 2017**Tasted at the Red Squirrel Tasting September 2017*

The black fruits are fresh the palate starts with herbal bramble excitement. Sweet and ripe in the middle black cherry and cassis the rich fruit filling out the back palate but it finishes with fresh herbal spicy black fruits.

**Glen Carlou
Paarl****White Wines**

- Tortoise Hill White 2005** **88**
Sauvignon Blanc 65% Chardonnay 30% Viognier 5%
South Africa Tasting October 2005
The fruit on the nose is fresh a mix of green lime and peachy greengage. The freshness of the nose is there on the palate which has nice flowery flavours and good length.
- Chardonnay 2004** **88**
South Africa Tasting October 2005
It feels very light on the nose although it has fragrance and a floral character. There is freshness at the start of the palate with ripe, sweet fruit showing on the middle. The finish is just a touch short.
- Chardonnay Reserve 2004** **90**
South Africa Tasting October 2005
Although there is a good weight of fruit on the nose floral fragrances do show themselves. The palate has good depth with a mix of lemon, melon and greengage. There are hints of oak but it does not dominate and the finish has a good length of flavour.

Red Wines

- Tortoise Hill Red 2003** **88**
Cabernet Sauvignon 50% Zinfandel 20% Merlot 10% Shiraz 10% Touriga Nacional 10%
South Africa Tasting October 2005
The nose is very light but quite fragrant. Sweet and leafy on the palate there is a mix of cassis and black plum giving a richer feel towards the back. Sweetness of fruit comes through on the finish.
- Pinot Noir 2004** **89**
South Africa Tasting October 2005
The nose has lots of interest with a mix of black cherry and mulberry all quite fragrant yet sweet. There is good depth with supple flavours and an attractive length of fruit.
- Syrah 2004** **88**
South Africa Tasting October 2005
There is a lot of ripe peppery red fruit on the nose. It feels quite sweet at the start of the palate but then firmer in the middle and the finish is very tight at the moment.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2007**92 2011-17***Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011*

The nose is very cassis driven and the sweetness of the fruit fills out the mid palate further enriched by liquorice and dark chocolate. Under all of the powerful fruit there is the freshness bilberry and bramble that gives a slightly lighter more elegant feel on the finish.

Grand Classique 2002**89*****Cabernet Sauvignon 51% Merlot 41% Cabernet Franc 3% Malbec 4% Petit Verdot 1%****South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The fruit on the nose is rich with a mix of blackcurrant and green peppery black plum. It has good weight of fruit in the middle and a complex mix of flavours showing towards the back. The fruit lasts well.

**Glenelly
Stellenbosch**

This beautiful estate lies in the Idas Valley on the southern slopes of the Simonsberg Mountain with origins dating back to the 17th century when the Governor of the Cape, Simon van der Stel, gave land to the French Huguenot Francois Villion. Today it is owned by May de Lencquesaing of Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande fame so no wonder the style has a hint of “claret” about it.

White Wines

Glass Collection Chardonnay 2010**91 2010-13***Tasted at LWTF May 2010*

There is a lot of fresh fruit showing on the nose with apple and greengage vying for dominance. The sweetness of ripe fruit gives more depth to the mid palate but this richness is nicely balanced by the apple acidity that is there underpinning and giving freshness on the finish.

Glass Collection Chardonnay 2011**92 2011-15***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011*

The mix of greengage and melon is rich and powerful packing out the nose and giving sweetness to the palate. Lime and apple underpin refreshing and lifting the flavours towards the back and balancing the fleshy power.

Glass Collection Chardonnay 2012**92 2013-17***Tasted at LWTF May 2013*

The sweetness of ripe fruit gives a fleshy richness on the nose and depth of flavour on the palate. Behind the ripe melon lime and apple refresh and give a slightly lighter feel to the finish.

Glass Collection Chardonnay 2018**87 2018-20***Tasted in the Mansion House June 2018*

The impression is one of tropical fruit sweet and ripe at the start the fruit backed by citric firmness a lack of real balance the finish a hint of pear drops.

Glass Collection Unoaked Chardonnay 2013 91 2014-18

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015

Tasted at the Lea & Sandeman tasting Galleria London March 2015

Light with lime and apple the nose has an attractive freshness and the start of the palate is crisp. Greengage gives more depth in the middle but the rich fruit is underpinned by citrus freshness that lightens the finish.

Estate Chardonnay 2016 90 2018-21

Tasted in the Mansion House June 2018

Ripe fruit the nose has a rich mix of ripe fruits the palate is fleshy with ripe melon. There is a balancing apple freshness an underlying streak of citrus but it finishes sweet ripe and fleshy.

Grand Vin White 2010 93 2011-15

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

It is a big wine with lots of powerful flavours on the nose and the richness of pineapple on the palate. The depth of fruit enriches mid and back palate but there is some freshness helping to balance and give a slightly lighter feel on the finish.

Grand Vin Chardonnay 2011 92 2012-16

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

The fruit is ripe giving lots of richness on the nose and fleshy sweetness on the palate. There is some cut apple that helps to balance the richness and the spice of the oak features on the finish.

Grand Vin Chardonnay 2012 92 2014-18

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Rich on the nose the palate has melon and greengage fleshiness. There is mid freshness apple under the rich fruit but the fruit ripeness sweetness gives weight on the finish.

Grand Vin Chardonnay 2013 93 2014-20

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015

Tasted at the Lea & Sandeman tasting Galleria London March 2015

Apple and citrus refresh greengage and melon enrich a lovely mix of flavours the layers of fruit on the palate giving complexity. The rich ripe sweet flavours are balanced by freshness slightly lighter at the back yet there is fruit power a nice depth of flavour on the finish.

Red Wines

Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 91 2010-15

Tasted at Innholders May 2010

There is a lovely richness to the nose, sweet ripe cassis and black cherry. The black fruited mix is there on the palate, layers of flavour giving complexity, the fruit feeling ripe. Underpinning there are some firm tannins that give structure but they are rounded with nothing aggressive about them allowing the fruit to flesh out the finish.

Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon 2009**91 2011-16***Tasted at Lincoln's Inn November 2011*

The cassis on the nose has an underlying herbal character with a touch of spice right at the back. The tannins are firm the mid palate tight but there is sweet cassis showing towards the back nicely balanced by fresher bramble and bilberry.

Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon 2010**92 2013-19***Tasted at LWTF May 2013*

The fruit on the nose is ripe a mix of sweet cassis and black cherry. The ripe flavours give a fleshy richness on the palate the black fruits backed by liquorice and chocolate and this powerful mix fills out the back palate.

Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon 2011**92 2014-20***Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Fresh on the nose there is a mix of blackcurrant and bramble on the start of the palate. Ripe fruit gives depth and sweetness in the middle the fruit enriched by liquorice but at the back it feels fresher lighter on the finish.

Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon 2012**91 2015-20***Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015*

Cassis rich on the nose with a depth of black fruits on the palate the fruit is ripe and the tannins supple. Firmer at the back more of a black cherry character and the finish is lighter and quite fresh.

Glass Collection Cabernet Franc 2016**87 2018-22***Tasted in the Mansion House June 2018*

The fruit on the nose is herbal and fresh the palate firm with tight tannins. Bramble and bilberry at the back gives a little more depth slighter richer but it dries on the finish a touch dusty.

Glass Collection Merlot 2009**90 2010-14***Tasted at Innholders May 2010*

It is very Merlot on the nose with lots of ripe fleshy black plum in evidence. The palate is rich with some ripe fruit yet behind is the freshness of red cherries giving a lighter feel towards the back. The sweetness of the fruit shows well on the long finish.

- Glass Collection Merlot 2010** 92 2013-18
Tasted at LWTF May 2013
 The nose is rich with lots of ripe black fruits. Black plum enriches the mid palate voluptuous, fleshy and supple lots of sweet flavours. There is enough black cherry freshness to balance and give a lighter less sumptuous feel on the finish.
- Glass Collection Merlot 2011** 92 2014-20
Tasted at the LWF June 2014
 Ripe fruited on the nose there is black plum richness on the palate. The sweetness of the fruit is balanced some mid freshness but it fills out at the back supple rich and fleshy on the finish.
- Glass Collection Merlot 2016** 88 2018-22
Tasted in the Mansion House June 2018
 The fruit on the nose is sweet ripe the start of the palate fleshy the mid palate has plum stone firmness. The sweet fruit tends to slide the finish is a bit dry.
- Glass Collection Shiraz 2009** 90 2010-15
Tasted at Innholders May 2010
 There is a very attractive spice perfume on the nose black fruits backed by red fruits with mulberry to the fore. The sweetness of the fruit gives flesh on the mid palate black cherry vying with bramble for dominance. A touch of spice pepper brightens the back palate giving lots of interest to the finish.
- Glass Collection Shiraz 2010** 93 2013-18
Tasted at LWTF May 2013
 The fruit feels ripe sweet a mix of red fruits. Although the palate starts sweet with rich flavours there is an underlying freshness some red cherry that balances and brings out black pepper spiciness. The finish has the richness of ripe fruit.
- Estate Red Blend 2012** 88 2018-21
Tasted in the Mansion House June 2018
 Power on the nose there is a rich mix of black fruits. The start of the palate has depth of fruit rich plum but at the back the flavours are herbal and spicy the tannins firm with a bitter black cherry finish.
- Grand Vin de Glenelly 2007** 91 2010-14
Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Petit Verdot
Tasted at Innholders May 2010
 The nose has herbal freshness and it shows on the palate. The black fruit mix feels ripe, sweetness of flavour in the middle with hints of coffee beans adding interest. There is some black plum towards the back giving some flesh and although the tannins give structure they feel ripe so the fruit fills out the back palate.

- Grand Vin de Glenelly 2008** 92 2010-17
Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Petit Verdot
Tasted at LWTF May 2010
 There is a powerful mix of fruits on the nose all feeling ripe and sweet. Rich cassis and black cherry appear to dominate the palate but behind is the freshness of bilberry giving a lighter feel in the middle. The sweetness of the fruit takes over leaving a mouthful of cassis and black plum.
- Grand Vin de Glenelly 2009** 92 2015-20
Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Petit Verdot
Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015
Tasted at the Lea & Sandeman tasting Galleria London March 2015
 Bramble freshness on the nose the start of the palate is rich with brooding black fruits. Cassis and black cherry layers of flavour lots of complexity the rich black fruits backed by dark chocolate. Although fresher at the back the finish is rich with depth of flavour.
- Lady May 2008** 93 2011-18
Cabernet Sauvignon + small percentage of Petit Verdot
Tasted at LWTF May 2010
 Although both nose and palate are very sweet fruited there is nothing jammy as there are bright flavours underpinning and balancing. The layers of fruit add to the complexity with towards the back dark chocolate and liquorice enriching. The finish has an attractive herbal spicy twist.
- Lady May 2009** 93 2013-18
Cabernet Sauvignon Petit Verdot
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011
 The nose is deep and brooding packed with rich cassis backed by fresher bramble. Ripe fruit gives a fleshy richness to the mid palate black fruits and dark chocolate. Towards the back there is freshness and the fruit has a slightly herbal edge.
- Lady May 2010** 93 2014-22
Cabernet Sauvignon Petit Verdot
Tasted at the LWF June 2014
Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015
Tasted at the Lea & Sandeman tasting Galleria London March 2015
 Deep brooding black fruited there are a lot of powerful flavours on the nose with rich ripe cassis and black cherry on the palate. The tannins are firm but ripe there is structure at the back but lots of sweet fruit on the back palate.

Goats du Roam
(off shoot of Fairview)
Paarl

Red Wines

Goats du Roam 2010 91 2011-15

Syrah 72% Cinsaut 13% Mourvedre 7% Carignan 4% Grenache 3%

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

The mix of black and red fruits on the nose is attractive quite sweet with an underlying peppery spiciness. There is more of a red fruit influence on the mid palate but the richness of the black fills out the back and with spice lifting the finish.

**Graham Beck
Robertson & Stellenbosch**

Sparkling Wines

Brut NV 89

Tasted at the Mansion House July 2010

The nose is quite light but full of lovely fruit fragrances. There is more weight on the palate sweeter more tropical fruits but the freshness is there at the back refreshing the finish.

Blanc de Blancs NV 90

Tasted at the Mansion House July 2010

There is an attractive floral quality about the nose. The palate has good weight of flavour with sweetness on the mid palate but then towards the back the racy freshness of apple and greengage win through refreshing the finish.

White Wines

The Game Reserve Viognier 2010 86 2013-15

Tasted at Lincoln's Inn April 2013

The nose is herbal oily and the fruit on the palate heavy more apricot than peach. The mid palate is firm and there is not a lot of character showing at the back.

Red Wines

The Joshua 2005 92 2010-16

Shiraz Viognier

Tasted in Lilley December 2010

The nose has a mass of powerful flavours with the richness of sloe and black cherry. The ripe fruit and rounded tannins ensure a supple richness on the palate but behind all of this richness and power is some fresher elderberry and bilberry given spiciness but the hints of black pepper.

**Guardian Peak
Stellenbosch****Rosé Wines****Rosé 2007** 89***Cabernet Sauvignon 95% Grenache 5%****Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2008*

With such a high percentage of Cabernet one would expect the flavours to be Cabernet dominated, not so, although there is lots of cassis it is intermingled with some leafy red fruits. Easy fresh, it is wonderful just as a glass of wine or as a partner to both fish and lighter meat dishes.

Red Wines**Shiraz 2002** 90*Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004*

There is a lot happening on the nose, peppery plum and mulberry. There is depth of fruit on the palate and the fruit has the excitement of black pepper and spice. Fair length needs a bit more time in bottle.

Shiraz 2004 90*South Africa Tasting October 2005*

It is very fragrant with spicy red berried fruits on the nose. Pepper and spice on the palate underpinned by a mix of flavours, mulberry, loganberry and a touch of bramble. The fruit feels ripe giving sweetness on the powerful deep finish.

Shiraz 2005 90*Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2006*

There is a lovely sweetness to the nose, an attractive mix of red fruits underpinned by bramble. The black pepper on both nose and palate gives spiciness to the fruit, all helping the complexity. The sweet quite fleshy black fruits are refreshed by the acidity from the mulberry.

Shiraz 2007 90*Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2008*

Punchy and sweet on the nose, a peppery spice backs the dominant black fruits giving lots of excitement. The start of the palate is rich and sweet lots of bramble and bilberry but there is freshness coming from the red cherry that lies beneath. The finish has power yet is given a racy feel by the cracked black pepper.

Shiraz 2008 92*Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2009*

The nose is lovely and rich packed with sweet black fruits. The mix of bramble, black plum and black cherry is fleshed out by dark chocolate spiced up with a touch of black pepper on the finish.

Shiraz 2009**91 2011-17***Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010*

Rich spicy peppery black fruits show on the nose and give lots of character on the palate. The bramble and black cherry mix is given an added richness by the rounded tannins but towards the back there is a fresher feel from some red cherry.

*Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011***91 2011-17**

The nose has a lovely spicy character all very black fruited with the black cherry intermingling with bramble. The mid palate is sweet the fruit feeling ripe but towards the back there is enough freshness, black pepper and spice to brighten the finish.

Merlot 2002**90***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004*

Black plums and yet more black plums. The nose is very rich and full of ripe flavours. Depth and weight on the palate, it has an opulence but is perhaps a touch one dimensional. There is real weight of fruit on the finish.

Merlot 2004**88***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

There is a lot of fruit showing on the nose, opulent ripe plum. The palate has a sweetness of flavour but the fruit is still quite tight and the tannins quite structured. Black and red plum is there on the finish and although quite rich there is the feel of more to show with time.

Merlot 2006**89***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2008*

There is a good weight of black plum on the nose with behind it a fragrant herbal freshness. The palate is fleshy, packed with black plums, the ripe rounded tannins all adding to the lushness. Right at the back the herbal freshness pushes through ensuring brightness on the finish.

Merlot 2007**92***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2009*

The nose is big, fat and fleshy lots of ripe plum. The sweetness of fruit is there on the palate enriching the middle and filling out the back palate. Under this supple lushness there are some red fruits that lift the flavours and ensure brightness on the finish.

Merlot 2008**92***Tasted in Lilley December 2009*

Rich and ripe the black plum fleshes out the nose and gives richness on the start of the palate. The ripe black plum is lightened and refreshed by bilberry and bramble all adding to the complexity. The sweetness of the fruit is there on the back palate giving flesh to the finish.

- Merlot 2009** 91 2011-16
Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010
The nose is strongly plum with a mix of red and black. The fruit is ripe giving fleshiness at the start and enriching the mid palate. Towards the back there are fresher influences with lots of red cherry in evidence. The fruit lasts well on the finish.
- Merlot 2013** 90 2015-20
Tasted at the SITT tasting London February 2015
Rich black plum on the nose the palate is fleshy with ripe fruits. Chocolate rich in the middle the tannins are rounded the back palate full of richness. Slightly lighter on the finish the black plum backed by some bramble.
- Malbec Tannat 2008** 94 2011-18
Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011
The South African sun ensures that the Tannat is ripe and the more red fruit character marries well with the black truffle of the Malbec. There are some powerful flavours on the start of the palate but in the middle red fruit freshness gives a lighter feel and brings out the complex flavour mix on the finish.
- Frontier 2002** 89
Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Merlot
Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004
Sweet ripe and fat, very cassis dominated on nose. The palate although fat and full has some complexity and interest, the mix of spice plum and blackcurrant gives excitement and the flavours linger well.
- Frontier 2003** 90
South Africa Tasting October 2005
The nose is light with freshness and fragrance spicy peppery plum and blackcurrant. The taste has sweetness, a ripe feel to the fruit making for a supple, rounded mouthful. It is a wine with a very attractive fragrance and lightness and has flavours that linger.
- Frontier 2009** 92 2010-15
Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Merlot
Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010
The upfront red fruits give a lighter fresher feel on the nose but on the palate the underlying black fruits come through and take over fleshing it out. Towards the back there are hints of spice and black pepper all helping complexity. The finish is full, rounded and fleshy.
- SMG 2002** 87
Syrah Mourvèdre Grenache
Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004

This mix of southern Rhone grapes has an enticing spice pepper character. The palate although showing sweet ripe fruit is lighter and the finish is not overpoweringly heavy.

SMG 2003**89*****Shiraz Mourvedre Grenache****South Africa Tasting October 2005*

It is sweet and juicy on nose with leafy spicy red berried fruits. There is freshness at the start of the palate with a supple ripeness fleshing out the middle. The mouth feel is of rounded softness with lots of mulberry and leafy peppery spice. There is a good length of fragrant fruit

SMG 2009**91 2011-16*****Shiraz Mourvèdre Grenache****Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

The mainly red fruits on the nose are backed by herbal freshness but as the fruit feels ripe the palate has fleshy richness. The mid sweetness and weight gives way to fresher lighter red fruit flavours and the finish has a peppery herbal raciness.

Lapa Cabernet 2005**91***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2006*

Packed with cassis, bilberry and sloe, there is a lot happening on the nose. The palate has richness; behind the fruit is dark chocolate sweetness fleshing out the mid palate. The balance between sweetness and freshness is excellent with a rich but quite elegant feel to the finish.

Lapa Cabernet 2006**93***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2008*

There are lots of powerful fruit flavours filling out the nose. The richness promised on the nose is certainly there on the palate with a mass of blackcurrant and sloe fleshed out by dark chocolate and given a spice excitement but the hints of coffee. The richness of the fruit lends weight to the finish.

Lapa Cabernet Sauvignon 2007**96***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2009*

Black cherry gives richness to the nose with behind it some fresher more fragrant bilberry. The fruit is ripe, rich and fleshy with black plum, blackcurrant and blackberry all vying for dominance ensuring lots of complexity. The mid palate has ripe fruit power but towards the back there is some underlying mulberry and bilberry that refreshes and lightens the richness leaving the feeling of elegance.

Lapa Cabernet Sauvignon 2008**94 2011-18***Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010*

There is a lot of generous fruit on the nose all very cassis dominated. Rich dark chocolate fleshes out the mid palate, rounded tannins adding to the suppleness. Sloe, black cherry and blackcurrant give a lovely complex mix of flavours on the powerful finish.

Lapa Cabernet 2009**94 2014-25***Tasted at Mercers' Hall November 2011*

The nose has a lot of rich fruit quite fleshy and sweet fruited. The ripeness of the fruit fills out the mid palate rounded tannins and dark chocolate help to enrich with the cassis, black cherry and sloe given an added complexity by liquorice. There is a hint of oak on the finish giving a touch of spice.

Stellenbosch 2009**93 2012-18****Jean Englebrecht*****Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec Merlot Petit Verdot****Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

The nose is rich full of ripe fruit with cassis and black cherry very much to the fore. Sweet ripe flavours fill out the mid palate and this combined with rounded tannins give suppleness but there is enough freshness enough structure from the Petit Verdot to balance and ensure the back palate is lighter and the finish has a more elegant feel.

Derek Smedley MW