



South Africa

Wineries M - R

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Tasting notes from the following growers:

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South Africa
Wineries M - R

See date & place of tasting in italics

Growers / Wineries are in alphabetical order with area underneath

Major's Hill
Robertson

White Wines

Chardonnay 2008

86 2010-11

Tasted in Lilley July 2010

It feels very fat with quite rich hot fruit on the nose. Pineapple and apricot are backed by some fresher apple but all over dominated by oak. The heat shows on the palate giving fleshiness but towards the back there is some pear drop freshness that gives a slightly brighter feel to the finish.

Red Wines

Shiraz 2006

84 2010-11

Tasted in Lilley July 2010

The mainly red fruited nose has a peppermint character not that unpleasant but rather dominating the fruit. The palate seems very unbalanced with quite hot fruit vying with high acidity and hard rather aggressive tannins. The finish lacks length and the fruit dries and fades.

Man Vintners
Coastal Region

Red Wines

Pinotage 2008

88 2011-14

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

Bramble intermingles with some richer black fruit on the nose and this richness sweetness of flavours fills out the mid palate. There is freshness towards the back but the finish is quite full and sweet fruited.

Meerlust
Stellenbosch

White Wines

Chardonnay 2009**91 2011-15***Tasted at the South Africa tasting October 2011*

The mix of melon and greengage is rich and powerful filling out the nose and giving flesh, richness on the palate. Despite the fruit being very ripe there is enough underlying citrus to balance. The hints of oak on the back palate give a touch of spice to the finish.

Chardonnay 2011**91 2014-18***Tasted at the Maison Marques et Domaine Tasting January 2014*

Citrusy and fresh the nose is light but the palate richer ripe greengage some fleshy melon a lovely depth of flavour. At the back there is apple and citrus giving a balancing freshness with a touch of oak spicing up the finish.

Red Wines**Red 2009****91 2011-17***Tasted at the South Africa tasting October 2011*

There is an attractive mix of flavours on the nose with the same mix of black and red fruits giving complexity to the palate. The mid palate is quite sweet but towards the back it feels fresher just a hint of herbal green pepper spice.

Red 2011**90 2014-20*****Merlot 52% Cabernet Sauvignon 33% Cabernet Franc 10% Petit Verdot 5%****Tasted at the Maison Marques et Domaine Tasting January 2014*

The nose is rich the palate fleshy ripe with lots of black plums. Under this red cherry and bramble give a lighter fresher feel and although it fills out at the back the finish is fresh fruited with lots of green pepper.

Pinot Noir 2009**91 2011-15***Tasted at the South Africa tasting October 2011*

Overlaying the mulberry that dominates the nose there is an attractive fragrance a mint character. The palate is full of sweet fruit quite rich in the middle backed by the freshness of red cherry that gives a lighter feel to the back palate and finish.

Pinot Noir 2012**91 2014-18***Tasted at the Maison Marques et Domaine Tasting January 2014*

Minty and fresh fruited on the nose the palate starts light but it fills out in the middle with ripe mulberry and some wild strawberry. It is firmer at the back with red fruited freshness yet there is a sweet feel to the finish.

Merlot 2007**90 2011-15*****Merlot 86% Cabernet Franc 14%****Tasted at the South Africa tasting October 2011*

There is a lot of powerful rich fruit on both nose and palate with a mix of black and red plums. The tannins are quite firm giving structure to the mid palate and a slight tightness to the spicy herbal finish.

Merlot 2010 92 2014-19

Tasted at the Maison Marques et Domaine Tasting January 2014

Rich and ripe fruited there are a lot of powerful flavours on the nose and fleshy sweetness on the palate. Black plum a touch of chocolate enriches the middle succulent and sweet and although firmer at the back the finish is open and sweet fruited.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 92 2011-18

Tasted at the South Africa tasting October 2011

The rich mix of cassis and sloe fills out the nose and gives weight of flavour on the palate. Dark chocolate enriches the mid palate given an added complexity by the mix of coffee beans and liquorice. There is a lovely balance and a good length of flavour.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 93 2014-22

Tasted at the Maison Marques et Domaine Tasting January 2014

The nose has a mix of black fruits and on the start of the palate cassis dominates yet behind some black cherry and sloe. The fruit feels ripe the mid palate fleshy and rich lots of dark chocolate with the sweetness of the fruit packing the finish.

Rubicon 2005 93 2011-16

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

The nose is rich profound full of black fruits. The ripeness of the fruit gives richness to the mid palate the fleshiness helped by ripe tannins and dark chocolate. Towards the back the structure becomes more evident supporting the fruit and this combined with a red cherry influence gives the finish a lighter racier feel.

Rubicon 2006 94 2014-22

Cabernet Sauvignon 74% Cabernet Franc 18% Merlot 8%

Tasted at the Maison Marques et Domaine Tasting January 2014

The nose has depth the ripe fruit giving richness. Cassis and black cherry vie for dominance on the palate the fruit further enriched by chocolate, coffee beans and liquorice. There is enough structure to support enough of a red fruit influence to give a fresher lighter feel at the back but the finish has the brooding depth of the start of the palate.

Rubicon 2007 93 2011-18

Cabernet Sauvignon 74% Merlot 15% Cabernet Franc 11%

Tasted at the South Africa tasting October 2011

There is a lot happening on the nose a lovely depth of flavour. Black plums enrich backed by lots of cassis and black cherry the sweetness of the fruit and dark chocolate give a fleshy suppleness.

Towards the back the herbal spice of the Cabernet Franc shows through adding to the complexity.

Rubicon 2009 **93** **2015-25**

Cabernet Sauvignon 70% Merlot 20% Cabernet Franc 9% Petit Verdot 1%

Tasted at the Maison Marques et Domaine Tasting January 2014

The nose has a complex mix of flavours all very black fruited. The palate is rich ripe with brooding depth lots of power. Chocolate and liquorice on the mid palate add to the richness and to the complexity with towards the back there are green peppers giving the finish a spicy twist.

Rubicon 2015 **93** **2018-27**

Tasted in the Guildhall September 2018

The black fruits are ripe and sweet the nose has depth the palate layers of rich fruit. Dark chocolate and liquorice add to the richness the ripe tannins give suppleness velvety smoothness but there is balance herbal bilberry at the back giving a lighter feel to the finish.

**Mischa
Wellington**

White Wines

Eventide Viognier 2005 **90**

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The peach and apricot perfume leaps out and has a freshness but also sweet depth. Flowery and fragrant on taste with a mass of peach and apricot flavours showing. Very ripe and full but there is acidity that gives length to the flavours.

Eventide Viognier 2006 **90**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2006

Very classic on the nose, the mix of apricot and peach has real fragrance and sweetness. The palate starts lighter but fills out towards the middle, nice balance between the ripeness and mid freshness with a lot happening on the finish.

Eventide Viognier 2007 **88**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2007

Lemon and lime give freshness on the nose but under this crispness there is heavier apricot and peach. The alcohol is all a bit obvious; it is a bit forceful and lacking in elegance. The powerful rich fruit lends an added weight towards the finish.

Eventide Viognier 2008 **91**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2008

There is a lovely perfume on the nose with white peach giving fragrance whilst apricot is there giving more weight. The fruit feels ripe fleshing out the mid palate but there is an attractive lime freshness that enhances the perfumed fruit character

Eventide Sauvignon Blanc 2008 **87**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2008

The pineapple on the nose gives a fleshy feel but under it is a mix of citric fruits freshening but giving a slightly hard feel. Although at the start of the palate there is some sweet fruit the citrus flavours cut in and giving hardness on the back palate and shorten the finish.

Red Wines

Eventide Shiraz 2002 **89**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004

The nose is full and ripe with a mix of loganberry and bilberry. Real weight of sweet, ripe fruit and rounded tannins give the palate suppleness and richness. Lots of fruit showing on the finish.

Eventide Shiraz 2004 **92**

South Africa Tasting October 2005

As part of the Mischa Estate this property was first developed after World War Two but it is only recently that the family have made and matured their own wines. Their Shiraz is a big success, its nose is action packed with ripe peppery red and black fruits. The palate is complex with first mulberry, then loganberry and even hints of bramble. Sweet and ripe on the palate it has a lush black pepper finish.

Eventide Cabernet Sauvignon 2001 **90**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004

The nose is meaty with blackcurrant with just that hint of oak. There is lots of powerful fruit on the palate, rich and meaty with a mix of bilberry, cassis and dark chocolate. The finish is sweet and rich.

Eventide Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 **89**

South Africa Tasting October 2005

Lots of fruit showing on the nose, a mix of cassis and ripe bilberry. Sweetness comes through on the palate, a ripe full chocolate character with hints of vanilla. Rich and rounded in the mouth with a long lingering black fruit finish.

Eventide Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 **85**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2006

There is some blackcurrant fruit on the nose but it lacks real depth. The fruit is held back by the firmness of the tannins and there is a green edge leaving the finish rather metallic.

Eventide Merlot 2003 **89**

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The nose is packed with sweet black plum. It is rounded and fleshy on the palate with depth of interest and complexity. The finish is a bit tight at the moment but there is a lot of ripe fruit right at the back of the palate.

Mischa Cabernet Sauvignon 1999**92***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2004*

It is a big wine with powerful blackberry and ripe plum, liquorice and green peppery spice. The oak shows and adds an excitement and complexity to the fruit. The finish has real power and depth of flavour.

Mischa Cabernet Sauvignon 2002**90***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose has a mix of green pepper and the classic blackcurrants. There are lots of complex flavours on the taste, black fruits, liquorice and dark chocolate. Some oak shows but does not dominate and gives the mid palate good structure. There is good length even though it does feel quite firm.

Mischa Merlot 2002**89***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose is full of ripe black plums. The palate starts with fleshy ripeness but goes quite firm in the middle. The sweet fruit is there but slightly held back. More ripeness and lushness comes through on the finish.

Mischa Shiraz 2002**92***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose is packed with peppery red berried fruit. The palate has depth of flavour, a mix of ripe mulberries and blackberries enhanced by some spicy, peppery oak. It is not a lightweight but although big and ripe, it has complexity.

Mischa Shiraz 2003**90***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2005*

Very spicy and peppery on the nose, more black fruits seem to be in evidence than red. The reverse on the palate, mulberry and cherry are at the front of the palate with hints of bilberry behind. Rich but there is a slightly hot feel to the finish.

Mischa Shiraz 2004**88***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2006*

Lots of power fills out the nose with the black fruits being very dominant. There is power on the palate, fat, full and slightly hot with some alcohol showing towards the back. The blackcurrant has a mint character and although it is slightly lacking in elegance there is a lot of fruit coming through on the finish.

Mischa Shiraz 2007**86***Tasted at Seckford Agencies October 2009*

The nose has some peppery spice, more black fruited than red. There is sweetness at the start but in the middle a tannic bitterness dominates killing the richness and giving a dusty dryness on the finish.

**Moreson
Franschhoek**

Red Wines**Magia 2006****87****2010-13*****Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot****Tasted at Innholders May 2010*

The nose has a nice weight of fruit and the start of the palate has some sweetness but towards the middle there is an attenuated feel, a green herbaceous character. The tannins are firm and tend to dry the back palate.

**Mount Rozier
Somerset West**

White Wines**Sauvignon Blanc 2011****91****2011-14***Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

The sweet tropical fruit that fills out the nose and the start of the palate has freshness behind it lime and gooseberry. The palate has rich flavours but towards the back the freshness comes through balancing and giving a crisper feel to the finish.

Chardonnay 2011**91****2011-15***Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

The nose is quite light but lovely, fresh and fragrant with lots of crisp apple but the palate has a richer feel with greengage underpinned by quite fleshy melon. The fruit fills out and last well on the back palate.

Red Wines**Merlot 2010****91****2011-15***Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

The ripeness of the black plum fills out the nose and gives a lovely rich start to the palate. The fleshy richness is balanced by some fresher fruits a touch of black cherry but as the tannins feel ripe they help to ensure suppleness and flesh on the finish.

Shiraz 2010**91 2011-15***Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

The nose is remarkably sweet with a mix of ripe fruit. The palate starts quite fleshy but there is a freshness that comes through towards the back and helps to bring out the peppery spices on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2010**92 2011-16***Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

Cassis and black cherry vie for dominance with the cassis tending to win. The fruit feels ripe and this helped by rounded tannins give flesh on the mid palate chocolate richness. Towards the back there are some fresher flavours a hint of bilberry that gives a lighter feel on the finish.

**Mulderbosch
Stellenbosch**

White Wines**Chenin Blanc 2016****87 2017-19***Tasted in The Don Restaurant London December 2017*

The nose lacks fruit the palate fresh quite fragrant but lacking in richness. A hint of tropical fruits is overtaken by citrus the finish is very light.

Sweet White Wines**Noble Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc 2010****89 2018-2***Tasted in Lincoln's Inn January 2018*

The fruit on the nose is rich and ripe the start of the palate a ripe apricots and peaches. Firm and fresh in the middle there is a lack of richness and depth and although there is sweet fruit at the back the finish is lighter fresher with aromatic spices.

**Mullineux Winery
Swartland**

White Wines**Kloof Street Old Vine Chenin Blanc 2015****92 2016-20***Tasted in the Eco Lodges Clophill August 2016*

Sweet fruit on the nose the palate has white peach and a hint of apricot rich fruit in the middle. The peachy fruit is underpinned by grapefruit a balancing freshness the back palate quite light but it finishes with ripe fruit.

Red Wines

Syrah 2014

90 2017-21

Tasted at the Royal College of Physicians January 2017

The fruit is sweet and ripe on the nose the palate starts lighter and fresher with some black pepper spice. Ripe fruit at the back the sweetness of the fruit gives fleshy richness on the back palate with black and white pepper spiciness on the finish.

**Nederburg
Paarl**

Red Wines

56 Hundred Shiraz 2017

85 2018-21

Tasted in Lilley September 2018

The nose has a bitter sweet character the palate firm and fresh with bitter red cherries. There is a slight mustiness in the middle brighter and fresher at the back with just a hint of black pepper spice.

**Neethlinghof
Stellenbosch**

Red Wines

Malbec 2010

84 2011-14

Tasted at the South Africa tasting October 2011

The nose has some black fruits but feels over hot and this heat gives a sweet fleshy feel on the palate. Towards the back there is a lack of balance with the jammy sweetness underpinned by rather aggressive dusty tannins leaving the finish short and lacking any generosity.

**Newton Johnson Family
Hemel-en-Aarde**

Red Wines

Felecite Pinot Noir 2016

90 2018-22

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

The fruit is sweet and ripe the palate has black fruits and red fruits. Mulberry under the sweetness gives a lighter fresher feel at the back the finish has fragrance and length.

Family Pinot Noir 2016**93 2018-23***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

There is a lot happening on the nose with a complex mix of rich black fruits the palate has freshness then sweetness layers of interest. Sweet fruit rich and ripe at the back depth of flavour the sweet fruit underpinned by mulberry freshness the finish is fragrant and long.

**Nitida Cellars
Durbanville Hills**

White Wines**Sémillon 2009****85 2011-13***Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011*

It full fat rich and rather opulent with sweet fruit on the nose and start of the palate. There is some freshness but the sweetness of the flavours tends to overpower and the finish has an alcoholic burn.

**Oldenburg Vineyards
Stellenbosch**

White Wines**Chenin Blanc 2012****91 2013-16***Tasted at the Carlton Club November 2013*

The fruit is ripe the nose full and sweet fruited and there is a rich feel to the start of the palate some tropical fruits underpinned by pineapple. Behind these rich flavours there is enough citrus to balance and refresh and although the back palate is lighter crisper the finish is rich fruited.

Chardonnay 2012**92 2013-17***Tasted at the Carlton Club November 2013*

The nose has a racy freshness very lime driven but the palate has the richness of ripe greengage and melon layers of flavour lots of complexity. The ripe fruited middle gives way to lime and apple freshness at the back and this gives a lighter bright feel to the finish.

Red Wines**Cabernet Sauvignon 2010****92 2013-20***Tasted at the Carlton Club November 2013*

Cassis dominates the nose packed with black fruits and the palate has the richness of ripe fruit. Rounded tannins help the suppleness the fleshy fruit on the mid palate underpinned by dark

chocolate and liquorice yet there is some bramble freshness. The finish is lovely and rich deep and long.

Cabernet Franc 2010 93 2013-20

Tasted at the Carlton Club November 2013

The nose has a complex mix of flavours black fruited with hints of spice and an underlying herbal freshness. Black fruits dominate the fruit feels ripe the mid palate fleshy and sweet yet at the back it is lighter fresher herbal and spicy on the finish.

Syrah 2010 90 2013-18

Tasted at the Carlton Club November 2013

Black fruits tend to dominate but they are underpinned by some red the freshness giving a lighter feel on the mid palate. The tannins are quite obvious firm and they tend to hold back some of the fruit but there is a little more richness right at the back with black pepper spicing up the finish.

Rhodium 2010 94 2013-24

Merlot 50% Cabernet Franc 40 % Malbec 10%

Tasted at the Carlton Club November 2013

The nose is rich deep and brooding and there are a lot of powerful flavours on the palate. Black plum enriches the mid palate ripe tannins helping the fleshy suppleness yet there is an underlying freshness herbal and brambly at the back. The finish though has depth and a black fruited richness.

**Old Vines Cellars
Stellenbosch**

White Wines

Old Vines Vintage Brut 88

South Africa Tasting October 2005

There is nice fruit on the nose with a fresh and a lively character. The palate is light, quite fragrant and there is fair length.

Old Vines Barrel Reserve Chenin Blanc 2004 91

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The nose is very succulent and ripe with greengage, apricot and tropical fruit. There is an amazing depth of flavour, ripe, full of sweet fruit with a fleshy feel to the finish

Old Vines Chenin Blanc 2004 88

South Africa Tasting October 2005

There is both fragrance and fruit on the nose. The palate is full of sweet fruit with a mix of tropical fruits and greengage. Good fruit weight enriches the end

Spring Valley Chenin Sauvignon Blanc 2005

85

South Africa Tasting October 2005

There is sweetness on the nose with greengage and lime. The palate has a pear drop character and although fruit shows the acidity feels out of balance.

Blue White Chenin Blanc 2005

86

South Africa Tasting October 2005

It is flowery and quite fragrant on nose. There is some nice fruit but a lack of depth. The finish is easy it just lacks any real character.

Red Wines

Spring Valley Shiraz Merlot 2004

86

South Africa Tasting October 2005

It is very light with some fragrant green pepper and plum on the nose. The palate tends to be rather lean and there is a tough character on the finish.

**Opstal Estate
Rawsonville
Breede River Valley**

White Wines

Opstal Bredekloof Blanc Chenin 2015

89

2018-22

Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018

Fragrant fresh the nose is bright the palate has stone fruits mineral freshness in the middle. There is balance a hint of sweetness with a citrus mix brightening the finish.

**Orange River Cellars
Northern Cape**

White Wines

Chenin Blanc 2010

87

2011-13

Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011

The sweet tropical fruit that shows on both nose and palate is balanced by citrus and fresh apple. It is pleasant easy and although not that complex has a nice mix of flavours.

Paul Cluver
Elgin

White Wines

- Sauvignon Blanc 2004** **88**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005
 The nose is very herbal gooseberry with slightly earthy passion fruit. The palate has crispness with a mix of gooseberry, apple and passion fruits. It feels quite firm and there are hints of alcohol on the finish but the fruit does come through right at the back.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2006** **89**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2007
 The tropical fruit is refreshed by some gooseberry giving crispness to the nose. There is a complex mix on the palate, gooseberry and fresh apple mixed in with the sweeter tropical fruit and passion fruit. The freshness at the back of the palate ensures length.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2007** **90**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008
 Lovely fragrances on the nose, the mix of lime and lychee has an enticing freshness. Its crispness is well balanced by sweeter tropical fruit, a delightful mix of passion fruit and white peach and the underlying backbone of flint crisps up the finish.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2008** **89**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009
 The predominant character is lime giving a green edge to the nose. The citrus and mineral mix ensures an appealing freshness on the palate. Towards the back there is more weight of fruit leaving a richer feel to the finish.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2009** **90** **2010-12**
8% Semillon
Tasted at the LWTF May 2010
 The nose has a citric and mineral crispness and the lovely fresh fruit is there on the start of the palate. Sweeter fruit shows towards the back some fleshy grapefruit and tropical fruit but the finish has all of the lime freshness that is Sauvignon.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2010** **89** **2011-134**
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011
 Lots of gooseberry gives crispness on the nose backed by herbal notes and green limes. The palate is very fresh quite light in the middle with richer sweeter more tropical fruit flavours coming through towards the back.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2012** **89** **2013-16**

Sauvignon Blanc 92% Sémillon 8%*Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013*

White peaches and tropical fruits are backed by crisp gooseberry and lime. The mid palate is quite light with attractive fragrances but towards the back it fills out yet the finish is racy and fresh.

Sauvignon Blanc 2013**91 2014-18***Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

Lime and lemon on the nose refresh the start of the palate crisp with a touch of gooseberry under the citrus. Tropical fruits on the back palate give a richer feel but it finishes with citric freshness.

Chardonnay 2004**90***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006*

The nose is light and fragrant, orange blossom and lemon fragrances. The taste is quite scented with a fresh slightly toasty spicy with minerals and green lime on the mid palate, harmonious and silky towards the finish. The floral fragrance is intertwined with hints of cinnamon flavour lime and lemon fruit. Good length and a structure that ensures that there is no need to rush.

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

The nose has lots of ripe fruit, apricot mixed with greengage and backed by lime. Spicy toast on the palate gives the feeling of weight but lighter more fragrant fruit shows towards the back. Very powerful, voluptuous fruit fills out the finish.

Chardonnay 2006**90***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008*

Depth of fruit is there on the nose, the powerful greengage backed by lighter more fragrant apple and lime. The palate has depth and melon richness but there is an attractive mineral backbone ensuring freshness and adding to the complexity.

Chardonnay 2008**92***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009*

The richness and ripeness of the fruit gives flesh to the nose and melon fleshiness on the palate. The lush ripeness is balanced by fresh grapefruit and lime that crisps up the mid-palate and ensures that the fruit mix lasts well on the finish.

Chardonnay 2009**91 2011-14***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011*

Ripe melon and pineapple enrich the nose and give flesh on the palate. There is an underlying freshness with more of an apple character and this brings out the flavours on the back palate.

Chardonnay 2010**91 2012-15**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

There is a lot of rich fruit on the nose with fleshy honeydew melon on the palate. The ripe fruit is backed by apple and underlying freshness but it is the sweet fruit that fills out the back palate.

Chardonnay 2011 90 2013-17*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

There is a lot of ripe fruit on the nose and a fleshy rich start to the palate. The mid palate is rather oak dominated but towards the back there are fresher flavours crisp apple with a touch of citrus and this gives a lighter feel on the finish.

Chardonnay 2012 92 2014-18*Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

The nose is rich the start of the palate fleshy lots of ripe melon. The mid palate is fresher lighter and the back palate just lacks a bit of fruit richness.

Chardonnay 2013 93 2014-19*Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

The fruit feels ripe sweet the palate has depth the richness of ripe melon. The mid sweetness is balanced by apple and although fresh at the back the finish has depth and ripe fruit richness.

Weisser Riesling 2004 90*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005*

Floral orange blossom and peaches on the nose. The palate has an attractive sweetness with tingling freshness giving it a zesty fragrance. Very flowery mix of flavours with oranges, peaches and lime, tropical fruits all showing. Attractive length

Weisser Riesling 2007 90*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008*

There is a great deal happening on the nose, floral, peachy yet refreshingly herbal. There is some sweetness on the palate but it does not detract from the floral freshness and zesty fragrance.

Riesling 2009 91 2010-12*Tasted at the LWTF May 2010*

It is very fresh on both nose and palate the tropical fruits spiced up by a herbal leafiness. There are lovely fragrances underpinned by the sweeter fruit that shows on the mid palate. The back palate and the long finish have a racy herbal freshness.

Riesling 2010 91 2011-14*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011*

The lime and herbal leafiness refreshes the nose backed by some sweetness more tropical fruit. The mid palate has a fair weight of flavour and although this richness carries on towards the back the finish is apple fresh with lovely leafy fragrances.

- Riesling 2011** 91 2013-16
Tasted at the LWTF May 2013
 The fruit on the nose is very fresh quite light with lime and minerals. There is a little more weight in the middle yet it finishes with a zesty lemon and lemon freshness.
- Riesling 2012** 93 2013-17
Tasted at the LWTF May 2013
 The nose is fresh with minerals and fresh lime and the palate is the same at the start fresh slightly herbal. There is more depth on the mid palate some richer slightly sweeter flavours but back palate and finish are lime and lemon fresh.
- Dry Encounter Riesling 2013** 93 2014-19
Tasted at the LWF June 2014
 Mineral, flint and citrus the nose is fresh the palate light and fragrant. Tropical fruits on the mid palate give a richer feel but at the back flint and minerals dominate the finish lean and flinty.
- Close Encounter Riesling 2010** 94 2011-14
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011
 The nose is packed with fruit rich tropical fruit with hints of white peach underpinned and refreshed by apple and lime. The palate mirrors the nose with rich flavours packing out the middle and the fresher fruit coming through towards the back lifting the flavours.
- Close Encounter Riesling 2012** 92 2014-18
Tasted at the LWF June 2014
 Fresh mineral and citrus the nose is light and the start of the palate lean. There is more depth on the mid palate some sweet tropical fruits but the citrus character is strong giving freshness at the back.
- Gewürztraminer 2004** 88
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005
 Forcefully aromatic with a mix of honeysuckle and Turkish Delight. The palate is full and quite firm, just a hint of alcohol coming through on the finish. The end has a complex mix of aromatic flavours that makes it a great partner to spicy foods and curries.
- Gewürztraminer 2007** 91
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008
 It has all the fragrant charm of rose petals mixed in with honeysuckle and eastern delights. It is not a heavy weight although sweeter flavours do emerge on the mid palate; an enchanting elegance is there towards the back, perfumed, exotic and fragrant.
- Gewürztraminer 2009** 91
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2010

The nose is quite light but has lovely fragrant, perfumed fruit. Sweeter tropical fruits are in evidence towards the back underpinned with perfume and lifted by the spice. Its charm is that it is not too heavy and has a real complex mix of fragrances.

Gewürztraminer 2011 91 2012-15

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

The nose is spicy perfumed quite fresh. Sweeter flavours give a richer feel on the mid palate with the freshness that comes through towards the back bringing out the oriental perfumed fragrances on the finish.

Gewürztraminer 2012 92 2013-17

Tasted at the LWTF May 2013

There is an attractive fragrant mix of perfumes on the nose and although the start of the palate is light the mid palate is richer with spicy flavours. It feels lighter at the back with the freshness bringing out the perfumes on the finish.

Gewürztraminer 2013 91 2014-18

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Light and perfumed both nose and palate has an oriental spiciness. Hints of sweetness on the mid palate are backed by freshness bringing out eastern spices on the finish.

Red Wines

Pinot Noir 2003 88

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005

There is minty mulberry and wild strawberry on the nose. The palate is full with some ripe flavours and sweet fruit and although it lacks a bit of complexity it makes up for this in the richness of fruit. Sweet flavours and some toasty oak come through on the finish.

Pinot Noir 2004 88

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006

The mix of red fruits on the nose is underpinned by some sweeter black fruits. The palate feels ripe and the tannins are rounded giving softness to the mid palate. Towards the back freshness shows ensuring a brighter feel to the mix of raspberry, mulberry and wild strawberry.

Pinot Noir 2006 90

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008

A light charm to the nose, complexity comes from the mix of mulberry backed by hints of blueberry. There is sweetness to the fruit an appealing weight of flavour, red fruits push through refreshing and giving lightness to the finish.

Pinot Noir 2008 91

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2010

The subtle mix of black and red fruits gives an appealing complexity to the nose. Mulberry is there on the palate backed by cherry and underpinned by bilberry. The mix of flavours lasts well on the long finish.

Pinot Noir 2009**90 2011-14**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

It is quite fresh very red fruit in character and although the nose is quite light there are richer flavours coming through on the palate. Mulberry tends to dominate but there is a hint of bramble helping the richness and filling out the finish.

Pinot Noir 2010**91 2013-17**

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

The nose has depth and richness of flavour and the palate starts the same quite fleshy with ripe mulberry. The mid palate is fresher still very red fruit in character with more loganberry and redcurrant. There is a nice length of flavour and mix of fruits on the finish.

Pinot Noir 2012**90 2014-18**

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Light with bramble and redcurrant the nose is fresh the start of the palate light. There is a richer feel in the middle but it is the fresher lighter black fruits that show at the back.

Seven Flags Pinot Noir 2006**93 2010-13**

Tasted at the LWTF May 2010

It is lovely and rich with sweet blackberry and fleshy mulberry. The black fruits seem to dominate the palate but towards the back red flavours show adding freshness. The back palate is lush full of ripe fruit rich and fleshy.

Seven Flags Pinot Noir 2008**93 2011-15**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

The nose is full of rich ripe fruit with an attractive mix of flavours. Wild strawberry and bramble are back richer sweeter mulberry layers of flavour giving complexity. The rich ripe power is balanced by freshness giving a feeling of harmony.

7 Flags Pinot Noir 2010**94 2013-19**

Tasted at the LWTF May 2013

The fruit feels ripe the nose rich with sweet bramble and mulberry. Although the palate has concentration and depth richness of fruit there is an underlying freshness that lifts the flavours brings out the fragrances and gives a lighter feel to the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2003**91**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005

Very full on the nose, there is a dark chocolate character behind the damson and cassis. The palate starts fresh but fills out with sweet, ripe, blackcurrant and sloe. The weight of fruit at the back is well integrated with the cedar wood character of the toasty oak.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2004 91

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006

The rather dominant cassis slightly overshadows the lighter fresher bilberry. Lots of sweet fruit fleshes out the palate and the underlying ripe tannins and dark chocolate both add to the richness. The hints of cedar wood that show through towards the finish give an attractive elegant twist.

Elgin Blend 2004 92

Cabernet 60% Merlot 40%

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006

Cassis and damson is fleshed out by black plum giving richness on the nose and fleshiness on the palate. There is enough structure to support the fruit but as the tannins are ripe they add to the supple richness. The fruit is so well integrated with the cedar wood and oak it does not dominate but adds to the complexity.

Elgin Blend 2005 91

Cabernet Merlot

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2007

It is very Cabernet dominant with lots of blackcurrants and sloes enriched by coffee and dark chocolate. The black plum of Merlot fleshes out the mid palate, the sweet richness supported by a structure of ripe tannins.

Sweet White Wines

Late Harvest Riesling 2007 89

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009

Lovely and floral, fragrances that are underpinned by apricot and dried orange peel, honeycomb sweet. The mid palate has enough citrus freshness to lift the flavours and invigorate, ripe rich fruit returns and fleshes out the end.

Late Harvest Riesling 2008 90 2012-13

Tasted at the Leathersellers May 2012

The colour is a walnut brown very deep. The nose is very sweet, lots of ripe apricot mixed in with orange peel and the start of the palate is the same lush with rich fruit the same mix of apricots and candied peel. Behind the sweetness there is some freshness enough underlying lemon acidity to balance.

Noble Late Harvest Riesling 2010 93 2011-17

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

Apricots are enriched by candied orange peel all feeling lovely and ripe. Sweet fruit fleshes out the mid palate lots of luscious orange marmalade but under all of the sweetness are hints of lemon and lime that refresh and give a more elegant feel to the finish.

Noble Late Harvest Riesling 2012

92 2013-20

Tasted at the LWTF May 2013

Yellow peaches and apricots enrich the nose with the sweetness of the fruit giving richness on the palate. The flavours are complex a lovely mix of fruits the sweetness balanced by freshness but there is lots of fleshy fruit at the back with candied peel enriching the finish.

**Pax “Verbatim”
Coastal Region**

Red Wines

Pax Blazing Hill Shiraz 2003

89

South Africa Tasting October 2005

Lots of ripe fruit shows on the nose, a mix of raspberry and bramble with hints of black pepper. It is sweet on the taste, ripe and quite fleshy with lots of loganberry and redcurrant coming through. The finish has a peppery spiciness.

**Remhoogte Estate
Stellenbosch**

Red Wines

Remhoogte 2009

85 2013-17

Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Pinotage

Tasted in Bordeaux April 2013

The nose is lean and tight and the palate firm with black cherry and bramble. There is a slightly sweeter feel in the middle but very obvious tannins take over drying and shortening the finish.

Bonne Nouvelle 2005

86 2013-18

Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Pinotage

Tasted in Bordeaux April 2013

Black cherry on the nose is firm and the palate is very influenced by firm rather dry tannins. There is some ripe cassis at the back but the acidity and tannic structure overpower leaving the finish dry and slightly bitter.

**Richard Kershaw
Elgin****White Wines****Clonal Selection Chardonnay 2015** **94** **2018-25***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

Rich and ripe the nose has the sweetness of ripe melon the palate lots of greengage and tropical fruits. The underlying fresh streak gives balance slightly lighter at the back fragrance and length.

Red Wine**Clonal Selection Syrah 2014** **93** **2018-24***Tasted in the Carlton Club April 2018*

The fruit is sweet and ripe the nose has depth the palate a mix of red fruits and bramble. Fine tannins the mid palate has sweet fruit fleshy the richer flavours backed by freshness the back palate lighter the finish is bright fresh with spicy black pepper.

**Rietvallei Estate
Robertson****White Wines****Stonedale Chenin Blanc 2014** **89** **2015-18***Tasted at Lincoln's Inn March 2015*

Lime fresh on the nose the palate has a touch of sweetness some white peach and tropical fruit an attractive mix of flavours. The refreshing citrus on the finish makes for a glass to enjoy on its own and it goes well with the salads and lighter fish.

Sweet Red Wines**Estate Red Muscatel 2011** **88** **2012-18***Tasted at Girdlers' Hall TFB 150th Dinner November 2012*

The nose has mix of dried fruit and strawberry all quite rich and sweet. Ripe flavours fill out the mid palate very red fruit dominated with dates and spices showing on the back palate.

**Robertson Winery
Robertson****White Wines**

Chapel Hill White 2010**86 2011-13***Tasted in Bulawayo Zimbabwe August 2011*

Ripe honeydew melon gives richness on the nose and a sweet start to the palate. Under all of this fleshy fruit is a mix of grapefruit and lime refreshing mid and back palate.

Red Wines**Wide River Shiraz 2011****88 2012-16***Tasted at Lincoln's Inn June 2012*

Sweet ripe fruit fills out the nose and give a rich start to the palate. Black fruits are backed by fresher red a nice balance of flavours with the fruit on the finish having the minty peppery spice of the grape.

**Rudi Schultz
Stellenbosch****White Wines****Sauvignon Blanc 2010****90 2011-13***Tasted at the Royal College of Physicians September 2011*

The nose is light fragrant flowery with lime freshness. There are a lot of different flavours on the palate with the fresh gooseberry backed by richer lychee and tropical fruits. The finish is lovely and fresh very mineral and citrus driven.

Red Wines**Cabernet Sauvignon 2013****92 2018-23***Tasted in Mosimann's Club West Halkin Street March 2018*

Cassis and bilberry the nose has smoky fresh fruits the palate rich with savoury black olives and blackcurrant jam the sweet fruit supported by fine integrated tannins. Under the supple richness there is a balancing freshness bramble and bilberry but it fills out at the back with black cherry and a hint of chocolate.

**Rustenberg
Stellenbosch**

The estate's history stretches back over some 300 years; the property was first acquired by Roel Pasman whose origins were in Germany's Rhine Valley. In 1892 John X Merriman bought the property and developed it alongside his active political career, he was to become one of South Africa's Prime Ministers. The Barlow family took over in 1941 and it is Peter Barlow's and now son Simon's hard work and investment that that brought the property to its leading

position. The estate is not just famous for its wines, but also for its prize winning herd of Jersey cattle.

The grape mix is classically international; the vineyards that lie on the slopes of the Simonsberg and Helderberg mountains are managed by wine maker Adi Badenhorst with help from viticulturist, Nico Walters.

February 2008

White Wines

- | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Stellenbosch Schoongezicht White 2010 | 91 | 2011-14 |
| <i>Semillon Viognier Roussanne</i> | | |
| <i>Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011</i> | | |
| The fruit on the nose is quite sweet with the peachy apricot slightly overpowered by greengage. The palate starts sweet honeydew melon giving richness but towards the back it is fresher and the finish has a racy herbal edge. | | |
| White Blend 2011 | 92 | 2011-14 |
| <i>Sauvignon Blanc Chardonnay Sémillon Viognier</i> | | |
| <i>Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011</i> | | |
| The fragrant apricot and peach of the Viognier tends to dominate the nose but the palate has an attractive mix of flavours with lots of greengage coming through in the middle. The sweetness of the fruit is nicely balanced by freshness a touch of citrus. The fruit mix lasts well on the finish. | | |
| Ida's White 2011 | 90 | 2012-14 |
| <i>Sauvignon Blanc Chardonnay Sémillon</i> | | |
| <i>Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012</i> | | |
| The freshness on the nose brings out the floral fragrances. The palate has lovely fresh fruit at the start with slightly sweeter greengage in the middle then the crispness of lime and gooseberry comes through on the finish. | | |
| Stellenbosch Schoongezicht White 2010 | 91 | 2011-14 |
| <i>Semillon Viognier Roussanne</i> | | |
| <i>Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011</i> | | |
| The fruit on the nose is quite sweet with the peachy apricot slightly overpowered by greengage. The palate starts sweet honeydew melon giving richness but towards the back it is fresher and the finish has a racy herbal edge. | | |
| Stellenbosch Sauvignon Blanc 2010 | 91 | 2010-13 |
| <i>Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010</i> | | |
| There is an attractive freshness on the nose lime and gooseberry with behind it some sweeter tropical fruits. The mid palate is quite light but very fresh but towards the back there are richer sweeter flavours. | | |

- Stellenbosch Sauvignon Blanc 2011** 91 2012-15
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012
 There is a lot of crisp fruit on the nose lots of gooseberry backed by cut grass. The sweeter tropical fruits give a richer feel in the middle but it is the crunchy gooseberry and lime that feature on the finish.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2013** 92 2014-18
Tasted at the LWF June 2014
 The nose is rich the fruit on the palate concentrated a tropical fruit mix. Under the sweeter fruit gooseberry and lime refresh lighten and give a racy crispness on the finish.
- Sauvignon Blanc 2014** 93 2014-20
Tasted at the LWF June 2014
 Lime fresh the nose has a mix of fragrances and the palate is crisp with crunchy gooseberry. Although fresh and crisp mid tropical fruits balance hints of sweetness the finish racy and long lots of citrus and slate.
- Roussanne 2004** 94
South Africa Tasting October 2005
 It has an intriguing nose, leafy, fresh lime and greengage. There is lots of flavour on the palate, the freshness well balanced by a mid palate ripeness. The flavours in the mouth are complex a mix of different fruits and behind this is a forest leaf character that adds real excitement.
- Roussanne 2009** 92 2010-13
Tasted at the Mansion House July 2010
 There is a mass of fruit on the nose green lime with grassy herbal undertones. The palate is full of sweet flavours a lovely depth of character and then towards the back the freshness re-emerges bringing out the greengage flavours on the back palate.
- Stellenbosch Roussanne 2010** 92 2011-15
Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010
 The herbal character of the grape is very much in evidence on both nose and palate. There are fresh fruits showing enriched by sweeter more tropical fruits. The back palate has lots of lovely fresh fruit.
- Stellenbosch Roussanne 2011** 91 2012-15
Tasted at Mercers' Hall November 2011
 Lime and apple are back by some fuller greengage all underpinned by a herbal leafiness. The palate starts fresh but there are fuller richer fruit flavours giving more weight in the middle but then towards the back the herbal grassiness wins through giving a racy feel to the finish.
- Stellenbosch Roussanne 2012** 93 2014-19

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Herbal and fresh the nose has a mix of flavours and the start of the palate has a grassy leafy freshness. The mid palate is richer with a greengage character the sweetness at the back underpinned by herbal freshness.

Stellenbosch Unoaked Chardonnay 2010 92 2011-14*Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010*

The nose is very fresh yet behind the freshness are fuller richer flavours. Greengage is very much to the fore on the palate the richness of flavour balanced and lifted by citric freshness. The flavours last well on the finish.

Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2003 90*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2004*

Lots of fruit on the nose, full and sweet but it also has an enticing freshness. On taste there is a mix of pineapple and greengage, a very stylish wine with the zippy freshness of lemon and lime but finishing with a creamy richness.

Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2004 93*South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose is packed with ripe greengage with hints of melon. Complex and mouth filling the fruit marries well with the oak giving both intensity and complexity. Pineapple, melon and greengage combine well and this richness is balanced by the minerality.

Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2009 91 2010-14*Tasted at the Mansion House July 2010*

The nose is packed with rich fruit underpinned by a touch of oak. It is rich and fleshy on the palate green plum and apricots intermingle. The back palate is full of ripe fruit balanced by some apple freshness but really quite lush.

Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2010 93 2012-16*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011*

There is just a hint of oak on the rich fruit that packs out the nose. Greengage and melon are underpinned by fresher apple layers of fruit giving complexity then towards the back the richness of the fruit comes through giving power on the finish.

Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2011 92 2012-16*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

There is a honeyed richness about the fruit on the nose with fleshy ripe melon filling out the palate. Under all this ripe rich fruit there is some citrus and cut apple that refreshes and balances but it is the ripe melon that fills out the back palate and gives a fleshy feel to the finish.

Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2012 92 2013-18*Tasted at LWTF May 2013*

The nose has depth and sweetness of fruit ripe greengage and honeydew melon. The sweetness on the mid palate is backed by fresh fruit apple and lime and although the back palate has the same freshness the finish has some lovely rich flavours.

Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2013

92 2014-19

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Apple on the nose gives freshness greengage and melon on the palate mid richness. The back palate is light fresh fruited and there is a nice mix of fruits on the finish.

Five Soldiers Chardonnay 2003

94

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005

The nose has power and sweet depth yet a mineral freshness. The palate is very rich, mouth filling greengage and honeydew melon with all the sweetness of ripe fruit. There is both power and elegant freshness and a bready character that intrigues. There is real depth and power on the finish, a creamy richness that lasts and lasts.

Five Soldiers Chardonnay 2003

94

South Africa Tasting October 2005

The nose has power and sweet depth yet a fresh minerality. The palate is very rich, mouth filling greengage and honeydew melon with all the sweetness of ripe fruit. There is both power and elegant freshness and a bready character that intrigues. The finish has depth and power a creamy richness that lasts and lasts.

Five Soldiers Chardonnay 2008

94 2011-16

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

The nose is packed with rich fruit lots of fleshy greengage. The richness of the fruit packs out the mid palate and although it is ripe there in apple freshness behind balancing the richness. The back palate is packed with fruit power.

Five Soldiers Chardonnay 2009

93 2012-16

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012

The nose is deep full of rich flavours. Ripe melon and greengage fill out the mid palate lovely and lush. Towards the back apple and lime refresh balance the richness and give a more elegant feel to the finish.

Five Soldiers Chardonnay 2010

93 2013-17

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

Ripe melon gives a fleshy richness on the nose and sweetness on the start of the palate. Behind the rich fruit it feels fresher with greengage and right at the back a touch of apple yet the finish has depth and richness of flavour.

Five Soldier's Chardonnay 2011

95 2014-19

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

Packed with ripe fruit the nose has depth the palate richness full of ripe melon and pineapple. The depth the mid power is nicely balanced by apple a complex mix with the fruit lingering on the finish.

Red Wines

- Ida's Red 2011** 90 2012-16
Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012
 Red fruits are very much in evidence on the nose but the palate is fuller sweeter with bramble and black plum. Towards the back it is very red fruit driven with freshness that brings out the herbal hints on the finish.
- Merlot 2010** 91 2012-17
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012
 There is lots of ripe plum on the nose and the sweetness of the fruit gives a fleshy richness on the palate. The black plum is sweet but behind the richness there is the freshness of red fruits some red cherry and this gives a slightly lighter feel on the finish.
- Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon 2012** 93 2014-22
Tasted at the LWF June 2014
 The nose has bilberry freshness the palate a mix of cassis, bramble and black cherry. The fruit on the mid palate is rich backed by liquorice and chocolate and although firmer at the back the finish is more open sweet fruited.
- Syrah 2004** 95
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006
 A complex mix of red and black fruits comes out on the nose and they are backed by a touch of black pepper. Supple and sweet on the palate, the fleshy richness is balanced by some mid acidity giving a bright feel to the flavours. Packed with power on the finish, the red fruits have that enticing spiciness so typical of the Syrah grape.
- Stellenbosch Syrah 2009** 93 2012-18
Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011
 Although the nose is very red fruit driven behind are some rich black fruits lots of black cherry intermingling with bramble. Although the start of the palate is full of sweet black fruits there is an underlying freshness with the red fruits spiced up by the black pepper.
- Shiraz 2011** 92 2013-20
Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013
 The nose is quite light with black pepper spiciness very red fruit dominated. The fruit though is ripe giving a fleshy richness to the mid palate the sweetness towards the back balanced by the redcurrant and raspberry freshness on the finish.

Buzzardskloof Syrah 2010 Flagship Range**94 2014-24***Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013*

There is a lot of fruit on the nose a rich depth of flavour with the ripeness of the fruit giving a fleshy richness on the palate. The sweetness of the mid palate is underpinned by fresh redcurrant and wild strawberry and this gives a slightly lighter feel at the back and highlights black and white pepper spices.

John X Merriman 1999**93 2007-11*****Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc****LWTF May 2007*

The nose is packed with fleshy blackcurrants and this powerful richness of fruit comes through on the palate. The tannins are fine-grained, giving the wine a sleek elegance, and the flavours towards the finish are stylish and long. The mix of black fruits is backed by coffee and tantalizing hints of cedar wood, all adding to the complexity.

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011***94 2011-20**

The nose is deep profound with lots of powerful black fruits. The richness of the nose is there on the palate lots of concentrated black cherry and cassis backed by liquorice and coffee beans lovely and complex. There is structure under ripe fruit but the tannins feel ripe so do not over shadow the fruit.

John X Merriman 2000**91 2007-14*****Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec****LWTF May 2007*

The nose is very black fruit dominated with blackcurrant, bilberry and sloe, a complex mix of flavours. The palate is quite fresh, with acidity giving a feeling of youth. Tannins, although still firm, do feel ripe. Contact with air opens up the fruit towards the back, so decant this before drinking it.

John X Merriman 2001**92 2007-14*****Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec****LWTF May 2007*

The fruit feels ripe; a mass of black plum is intermingled with cassis and blackberry. Hints of red fruits show on the palate giving freshness, and the flavours are backed by herbal eucalyptus. This all adds to the complexity. Although very enjoyable now there is the feeling of more to come, and this has a structure that will ensure pleasure over the next few years.

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011***94 2011-18**

The nose has lots of charm with its mix of black and red fruits and its touch of green pepper backed by hints of maturity. The mid palate has more depth of fruit with a strong black fruit character the black plum and cassis refreshed by black cherry, bramble and a hint of herbal spice.

John X Merriman 2002**91 2007-12*****Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec***

LWTF May 2007

Not as upfront as the previous vintages, the nose is tight and there are firm tannins dominating the palate. All this tends to hold back the fruit. It has the potential to open up as there is more weight of sweet fruit, black plum and bilberries towards the back, backed by hints of coffee. The wine has style but it lacks some complexity.

John X Merriman 2003**93 2008-17*****Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec****South Africa Tasting October 2005*

The nose has a mix of cassis and black plum with touches of green peppery spice. There is a firm start to the palate but the fruit soon comes through, sweet ripe and deep. The tannins all feel very ripe; the mid palate is rounded and quite supple although the finish is still quite firm and tight.

*LWTF May 2007***94 2008-18**

It has a lovely sleek nose, of cassis and bilberry, overlaid with green pepper and backed by eucalyptus. The palate is full of sweet fruit; the tannins, although firm, are ripe. This ensures good structure but not overpowering firmness. There is a lot happening on the finish, prunes and liquorice, overlaid with tantalizing hints of coffee and cedar wood.

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011***93 2011-18**

The nose is quite tight and although there is nice fruit the acidity and herbal raciness tend to overshadow the flavours. Sweet black fruits fill out the mid palate with towards the back red cherry and green pepper giving more freshness and an elegant feel to the finish.

John X Merriman 2004**95 2009-20*****Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec****LWTF May 2007*

The nose is concentrated, lots of different aromas adding complexity to the plum and bilberry fruit. A big start to the palate, a mass of rich fruit, slightly held back by firm tannins. Although the tannins dominate at the moment, there is a great finish, liquorice, plum and bilberry, with aromatic notes of coffee and eucalyptus.

*Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011***94 2011-20**

The nose has an attractive mix of fruits and although very black fruit in character they are quite fresh and light. The palate has more depth sweet cassis and plum backed by bramble and red cherry. The finish has the herbal character of eucalyptus and this together with the black fruits and coffee beans gives complexity.

John X Merriman 2005**96 2010-20*****Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec****LWTF May 2007*

Lots of powerful mixed black fruits aromas fill out the nose, with green pepper spice giving a fragrant, elegant twist. The fruit on the palate is lush, and the black plum and cassis flavours have a chocolate richness. Tannins are supple, but firm enough to give support and structure to

the mass of fruit. A lovely complexity shows towards the finish, coffee beans and liquorice all intermingled with bilberry and blackberry.

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

95 2011-25

The nose is deep profound full of black fruited power. The ripeness sweetness of the fruit enriches the mid palate with layers of flavour damson plums, cassis and black truffle giving complexity. The powerful fruit mix gives depth on the back palate and power on the finish.

John X Merriman 2006

94

Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009

The nose is packed with fruit, the mainly black flavours overlaid with herbal spiciness. The start of the palate is quite tight the tannins seem over dominant but behind the barrier is a powerful mix of cassis, plum and bilberry enriched by dark chocolate and coffee beans. There is so much more to show with time but patience is need – drink 2010 onwards

John X Merriman 2007

93 2011-20

Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec

Tasted at the LWTF May 2010

There is lots of fruit on the nose all very black fruit overlaid with fresher bilberry and herbal spiciness. The palate has the sweetness of ripe fruit a complex mix of cassis, plum and bilberry enriched by dark chocolate and coffee beans. Although it is remarkably upfront there is so much more to show with time.

John X Merriman 2008

93 2012-20

Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

The black fruit mix is ripe and gives the nose richness. Layers of black fruit gives lots of complexity cassis appears to dominate but behind is fresher bramble, black cherry and bilberry. Although it is very rich there is enough freshness to give a lighter feel and an attractive elegance towards the back.

Tasted in Morestead Hampshire March 2011

93 2012-20

The nose is packed out with rich black fruits all very cassis driven. Although the fruit on the palate is deep, rich and powerful there is freshness behind hints of bilberry backed by herbal spices. The back palate has depth of flavour packed with powerful black fruits.

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2011

94 2013-28

The nose has the richness and power of ripe fruit all very black fruited in character. Black plum gives flesh on the palate further enriched by ripe tannins and black truffles rich deep and profound. The layers of fruit liquorice and coffee beans give complexity and the hints of oak give spice.

John X Merriman 2009

93 2013-20

Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec

Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011

Black fruit tends to dominate the nose rich and powerful but behind them are hints of red cherry and bramble. The palate is profound and deep full of powerful flavours at the moment supported by the tannic structure. The layers of fruit give complexity the richness fills out the back palate.

John X Merriman 2010 93 2015-25

Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Cabernet Franc Petit Verdot Malbec

Tasted at Lincoln's Inn March 2013

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

The nose is very firm with a mix of cassis and black cherry and this black fruited mix dominates the start of the palate. Under the black fruits liquorice and coffee beans add to the depth of flavour. The tannins are very firm at the moment tending to over shadow the fruit and hold back the fruit on the finish.

John X Merriman 2011 93 2016-25

Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Petit Verdot Malbec

Tasted at the LWF June 2014

There is a lot happening on the nose a mix of flavours all strongly black fruited. The palate is tight at the moment the tannins quite obvious structured but at the back cassis and black cherry enrich and give weight on the finish.

R M Nicholson 2009 93 2012-20

Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz Petit Verdot Cabernet Franc Malbec

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

Blackcurrant dominates the nose with behind it the richness of sloe and black cherry. The fruit is ripe and the palate given an added richness by chocolate and black truffle. Behind all of this there is some freshness and a lovely hint of spice towards the back.

R M Nicholson 2010 93 2014-23

Cabernet Sauvignon Syrah Merlot Cabernet Franc

Tasted at LWTF May 2013

The nose has depth of fruit and the palate is serious power packed profound with some chunky flavours. Black cherry and bramble vie for dominance enriched by a touch of liquorice and coffee. The tannins are still firm giving structure but there is a wealth of fruit at the back.

Peter Barlow 1999 92

Cabernet Sauvignon 100%

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2002

The nose has sweetness and a hint of maturity, full and deep. The fruit is mixed with a hint of oak that gives complexity and interest. The structure has power, the weight of fruit is nicely balanced by the well handled oak. The rich mix of bilberry, blackcurrant and dark chocolate is enjoyable now but will go on integrating and developing.

Peter Barlow 2001**93 2010-14***Tasted at Lincoln's Inn February 2010*

Blackcurrant enriches the nose and the power is there on the palate, the cassis backed by sloe. The fruit is ripe and this combined with rounded tannins gives a chocolate lushness in the middle. The back palate is still quite firm but the tannins are not aggressive allowing the mix of coffee beans and liquorice to give complexity and show to advantage.

Peter Barlow 2003**95***South Africa Tasting October 2005*

Even though it is made from pure Cabernet Sauvignon both nose and palate have a complex mix of flavours. Richness shows on the nose, a depth of cassis, bilberry and sloe and this again is mirrored in the taste. There is a suppleness and ripeness that fills the mouth with sweet fruit. The mid structure is firm and the oak though apparent is well integrated. Good for another 10/15 years

Peter Barlow 2006**94 2011-22*****Cabernet Sauvignon****Tasted at the LWTF May 2010*

Blackcurrant and black cherry pack out the nose and dominate the palate. The flavours are rich and ripe dense fruit backed up by dark chocolate and coffee beans. The layers of fruit give complexity and the back palate has power and concentration.

Peter Barlow 2007**94 2012-20*****Cabernet Sauvignon****Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2012*

Blackcurrant tends to dominate the nose with behind it black cherry and bramble. The palate has power depth of flavour the richness on the mid palate helped by the dark, chocolate, coffee beans and liquorice. The tannins give structure but feel ripe and there is a lot of sweet fruit packing out the back palate.

*Tasted at the CMS Dinner Mansion House October 2014***95 204-20**

Blackcurrant tends to dominate the nose with behind it black cherry and bramble with an attractive hint of maturity. The palate has power depth of flavour the richness on the mid palate helped by the dark, chocolate, coffee beans and liquorice. The tannins although there are supple feel ripe and there is a lot of rich cassis packing out the back palate.

Peter Barlow 2008**95 2014-24*****Cabernet Sauvignon 100%****Tasted at the LWF June 2014*

There are powerful black fruits on the nose the palate rich packed with blackcurrant, black cherry and liquorice. The mid richness is balanced by an underlying freshness more of a bilberry bramble character yet the finish has black fruited power and depth.

Sweet White Wines

Rustenberg Straw Wine 2003**93****Chenin Blanc***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005*

There is a voluptuous mix of peach, apricot and orange peel on the nose. The palate starts with a wicked sweetness with richness and a feel of ripe fruit. The mid palate has freshness lifting the flavours and lengthening the fruit. The finish has depth with a powerful mix of candied orange and peach.

Straw Wine 2009**91 2010-15****Chenin Blanc***Tasted at the LWTF May 2010*

The nose has a floral fragrant charm under which are sweet fruits, ripe peach and apricot. The candied peel is rich and ripe underpinned by fresher citrus, layers of complex flavours. Towards the back the floral character comes through giving it an elegant twist.

Straw Wine 2011**94 2013-18****Chenin Blanc***Tasted at LWTF May 2013**Tasted at Innholders' Hall February 2015*

The nose has a mix of flavours with fresh lemon and ripe sweet honeydew melon. There is real depth of flavour on the palate fruit richness the sweetness well balanced by fresher fruits that show through towards the back.

**Rust En Vrede
Stellenbosch**

Red Wines**Merlot 2002****90***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2004*

The nose is fat and rich with concentrated black plum. The palate is very powerful and deep with a mass of sweet fruit. There is good structure so although the fruit is fat and sweet it is not jammy. It finishes with depth of flavour.

Merlot 2004**93***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006*

The nose has richness of fruit, real depth of ripe black plums. The palate is rich and ripe but there is a mid freshness that brightens the fruit ensuring complexity. A mineral raciness comes through the sweet powerful fruit and there is an excellent structure towards the finish. It is a wine with the Old World style and structure which adds to the fruit length.

Merlot 2006**94**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2008

The nose is rich, a powerful mix of black plum and dark chocolate backed by a touch of spice with hints of bilberries. The first impression on the palate is one of richness, ripe fat squashy fruit but behind all this lushness is some red berry freshness, the suppleness comes through strongly towards the finish filling the mouth with lush fruit.

Merlot 2007**90***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2009*

The nose and palate is very Merlot fleshed out by rich black plum and dark chocolate. The fleshiness on the palate is lightened towards the back by a mix of bilberry and mulberry, character added by the hints of spice on the finish.

Merlot 2008**93***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2010*

Rich ripe black and red fruit gives flesh on the nose. There is lots of dark plum in evidence, its richness filling out the mid palate the suppleness on the palate enhanced by the rounded ripe tannins. Although there is lots of richness and power the underlying red fruits brighten and ensure elegance.

Merlot 2009**90****2010-15***Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010*

The fleshiness of ripe black plum fills out the nose and gives a sweet start to the palate. There are other black fruits underpinning the plum and then towards the back fresher reds appear giving a lighter feel on the finish.

Merlot 2010**92****2011-17***Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

The nose is packed out with sweet ripe fruit lots of black plum and this gives flesh on the palate. There is some freshness to balance a touch of blackberry and black cherry but it is the fruit ripeness that packs out the back palate and gives a supple richness on the finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2001**89***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2003*

The nose is very concentrated fruit, blackcurrant and oak. The palate is firm with real fruit power and depth, a mix of cassis and oak, with hint of green pepper. Quite tight on the finish but given time it will open up.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2003**92***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005*

The nose has depth of black fruits, cassis, bilberry and sloe. The sweetness on the palate is beautifully balanced by mid freshness and this brings out and lifts the fruit flavours. The tannins feel firm but not aggressively hard and feel ripe. The fruit on the finish has the classic tar character so often found on South African Cabernet wines.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2004**95***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006*

The mix of black fruits is lovely and rich, first blackcurrant then sloe fleshed out by some dark chocolate. There is weight and depth on the palate but the black fruits are refreshed, lightened by hints of cherry and spiced up by tobacco and aniseed. Although there is a huge tannic structure the tannins feel ripe not aggressive leaving a sweet yet elegant finish.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2007**93****2010-17***Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010*

Blackcurrant reigns supreme on the nose the sweetness enriched by dark chocolate and coffee beans. Bramble and black cherry are there adding to the complexity the fleshiness balanced by the green herbal freshness that comes through towards the back.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2008**93****2011-18***Tasted in Victoria Falls Zimbabwe August 2011*

Cassis dominates the nose although behind are hints of black cherry and coffee beans. The palate has a lovely depth of fruit serious complex the fruit underpinned and enriched by chocolate, coffee and liquorice. There is some fresh bilberry towards the back but the finish has all the power of the nose.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2009**92****2012-18***Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011*

The richness of cassis and liquorice is lighted and refreshed by bilberry and bramble and although the palate starts quite fresh black fruited power comes through enriching the middle and back palate. The tannins are still quite firm but as they feel ripe they support without holding back fruit expression.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2010**91****2013-20***Tasted at the Royal College of Physicians February 2013*

The nose is packed with black fruits and the palate has power depth lots of tarry fruit. There are some slightly fresher fruits in the middle a touch of bilberry but the back palate and finish are power packed.

Shiraz 2001**89***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2003*

The nose is ripe fruity and spicy with red berried flavours. The mid palate is quite firm yet the back palate and finish is leaner, racy with hints of spice, pepper, cherry and raspberry.

Shiraz 2003**92***Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005*

Although the fruit flavours lean more to red than black there is real power with behind the fruit a spice black pepper excitement. Leaner feel on the mid palate as the fruit is supported by a firm

structure. The ripeness of the fruit shows in the sweet power on the finish, the black fruit mix enlivened by black pepper giving lots of interest on the finish.

Shiraz 2004**94**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006

The mix of fruits that comes through on the nose gives an immediate complexity and this interest is there on the palate. Lovely and fleshy in the mouth, the sweet, supple flavours are balanced by red fruit freshness and spiced up by a touch of black pepper. It is very enjoyable now but will go on developing over the next four to five years.

Shiraz 2007**92****2010-17**

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

The nose is packed out with sweet ripe fruit. Black fruit appears to dominate but behind all of the richness are fresher reds, raspberry and red cherry. The back palate is full of rich flavours given a spicy twist by the black pepper that is in evidence.

Shiraz 2009**91****2011-17**

Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011

Fresh red fruits are backed by slightly richer sweeter black both given a spiciness by the black pepper that underpins. There is an attractive balance of sweetness and freshness a mix of flavours with the red cherry and raspberry backed by bramble. The fruit lasts well on the finish.

Single Vineyard Syrah 2008**92****2011-18**

Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011

The nose is very red fruit with fresh raspberry back by slightly richer red cherry. The palate seems quite light at first but there is a richer feel on the mid palate then towards the back the spicy red fruit mix wins through refreshing the finish.

Estate 2003**95****Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2005

There is so much happening on the nose, under the cassis is some spicy black pepper and then, as it opens up, fuller sweeter plum begins to show. The complex mix is repeated on the palate, the sweetness blended so well with the mid freshness ensuring real complexity. Great balance, the ripe fruit is not over fat and has real finesse leading to a finish that has a seamless silky elegance that goes on and on.

Estate 2004**94****Cabernet Sauvignon 58% Shiraz 29% Merlot 13%**

Tasted at the London Wine Trade Fair May 2006

Although there is a lesser proportion of Merlot rich ripe black plum is very much a feature of the nose and fills out the mid palate. Behind this richness is fresher blackcurrant and bilberry lifting

the layers of flavour and adding to the complexity. There is lots of power on the back palate, the ripe fruit enriched by dark chocolate fleshing out the finish.

Estate 2006 92 2010-17

Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

Tasted at Vinopolis October 2010

The fruit on both nose and palate feel ripe all fleshy and sweet. There are lots of flavours intermingling on the palate with blackcurrant to the fore. Despite firm tannins the ripeness of the fruit shows in the fleshiness on the back palate.

Estate 2007 92 2011-17

Cabernet Sauvignon 61% Shiraz 30% Merlot 9%

Tasted at the Wines of South Africa tasting October 2011

Black cherry is enriched by sloe the richness filling out the nose. The palate has powerful flavours deep and brooding black fruits yet towards the back there is enough bilberry freshness to lighten the richness and give a fresher feel to the finish.

Estate Red 2009 92 2013-20

Cabernet Sauvignon 61% Shiraz 31% Merlot 8%

Tasted at Seckford Agencies tasting Vivat Bacchus London March 2013

There is lots of cassis on the nose with sweet ripe black plum giving fleshiness on the palate. Under the black fruits liquorice and coffee beans enrich and although towards the back the tannins are quite firm the back palate is full of ripe fleshy fruit.

Stellenbosch Ridge 2010 96 2013-24

Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Petit Verdot

Tasted at IWC Taste of Gold June 2013

There is a lot happening on the nose fragrant violets with vibrant bilberry and blackberry yet the palate is rich packed with ripe plum and cassis. The tannins are fine the mid palate lush velvet smooth sumptuous. There are, though, enough fresh fruits towards the back to balance the voluptuous richness bring out the hints of vanilla and give elegance on the finish.

Derek Smedley MW