



Written by

Team JR

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South Africa - a compilation



Julia writes: Just two weeks after the [New Wave South Africa](#) tasting in London last month, South African producers and their importers were pouring their wines with enthusiasm in the basement of the High Commission in Trafalgar Square for Wines of South Africa's Wozani tasting. The timing may have been a little unhelpful - not many producers could afford to be away long enough to take in both events - but then again there wasn't much overlap and the former was by invitation only (the invitations coming from the small group of importers whose initiative the New Wave event was). Only one importer, Richard Kelley MW's Dreyfus Ashby, set up his stand at both, and only a few wines - from producers such as DeMorgenzon, Yardstick, Waterkloof and Momento - were shown on both occasions.

I asked Jo Wehring, UK market manager for Wines of South Africa, how she felt about the different associations that now existed, not just [New Wave South Africa](#) but also [PIWOSA](#), [CVC](#), [Swartland Independent](#) and [Zoo Biscuits](#) (I hadn't even heard of the last one,

a collective that formed around the time of this year's Cape Wine). She was typically very positive about these groupings and their potential to 'add value to the SA message' while acknowledging that the timing of the two London tastings was perhaps unfortunate, even though she suggested it did not have a negative impact on attendance. 'So, on the one hand', she continued, 'we are thrilled that there's so much going on with South Africa and the groups really help with that, especially raising awareness of premium wines, which has been crucial to building the image of South African wines overall. The downside is just managing logistics so that events don't detract from one another.' It seems her job has become a little more complicated, but it is surely better to be trying to organise life than raise the dead.

Not all the 142 wines described below were tasted by me at Wozani. As with our other compilations, there are also wines here that were tasted by Jancis, Richard and Tam - as unsolicited samples or at other London events, generally organised by importers or retailers.

As it happened, I was on holiday in the wilds of Wisconsin (not even a phone signal, let alone wifi) when the New Wave tasting took place and I was disappointed to miss it. But if the Wozani tasting lacked some of the buzz described by Jancis last week, and enjoyed not only by the UK wine trade but also by a number of Purple Paggers the night before, it showed a high level of quality and dependability in the better-established styles of wine such as varietal Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay and Shiraz/Syrah and the well-crafted red blends. It feels as though South Africa is advancing on all fronts and making very good wines for all tastes and budgets. UK importer and agent Boutinot's two Mon Vieux whites stood out for their brilliant value, though I am afraid they are available in the UK only because they are effectively Boutinot's own label.

The wines are grouped by colour and are then listed in score order, though within the same score group (eg all the wines scoring 17), the order is random.

Our photo of the Helderberg is courtesy of Erica Moodie/WOSA.

WHITE

- Longridge, Clos du Ciel Chardonnay 2013 Stellenbosch *Single vineyard, historic 1-ha plot, vines planted by John Platter in 1988 and into which he ploughed vast quantities of lime. On decomposed granite, high on the Helderberg slopes. Nine different clones, no herbicides or pesticides, managing biodynamically. Hand-picked grapes, matured in French oak barrels, fermented with natural yeasts, no enzymes, no fining agents, bottled unfiltered.* Oak-led vanilla nose, edge of toast and ripe tropical fruit, quite creamy. Beautifully structured and the texture of polished pewter, although the fruit - fine and restrained - is in abeyance to the oak right now. Bitter, elegant grapefruit-pith finish. Both intensity and tension, but not ready to drink just yet. (TC)12.5% Drink 2017-2022
17
- Goose Wines, The Goose Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Upper Langkloof *Grown 2,500 feet above sea level in the Outeniqua Mountains, part of the Garden Route of South Africa. Low annual temperatures of around 17 °C.* So smoky it almost unfurls from the glass in wreaths. Liquid gravel, almost puritanical in its austerity. Tarragon and lovage leaf soften cold marble edges, and there is an almost teeth-crunching crispness to the long finish. Very far from the South African norm, but not trying to be Sancerre either. Find some oysters... (TC)13.5% Drink 2016-2018
£12.99 Hard to Find Wines 17

- **Ezibusisweni Chenin Blanc 2012 Stellenbosch** Oxidative edge, honeyed, treacle and a knife-edge lime fruit to give structure. Absorbing. (RH) Drink 2013-2020
17
- **Boutinot, Mon Vieux Hell's Heights Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Banghoek** *Boutinot own label made from bought-in grapes, hence the very good price/quality ratio. Barrel fermented. Winemaker Marinda Kruger-van Eck.*
Unusual and attractive aromas: you can just detect the Sauvignon Blanc herbal fruit but the barrel ferment has given it a subtle spicy dimension – all matched on the palate. Very well made – benchmark barrel-fermented Sauvignon Blanc. Shame this is available in the UK only as it is particularly sophisticated for this price. **VGV** (JH) 14.5% Drink 2015-2017
£12 approx 17
- **Boutinot, Mon Vieux Aquifer Semillon 2014 Swartland** *Boutinot own label, top of the range. Bought-in grapes, hence very good price/quality ratio. Barrel fermented. Winemaker Marinda Krug-van Eck.*
Complex and inviting aroma, the creamy oak knit together with quince and citrus bright fruit, a touch of beeswax too. Creamy but juicy, with clementine flavours mixed in with those quince and citrus fruit flavours. Juicy, mouthwatering and finishing with a light, dry, fine-grained texture. Very good. Shame it is available in the UK only as it is **VGV**. Though wine-searcher tells me it is also in Sweden. (JH) 12.5% Drink 2015-2018
£13 approx 17
- **Boutinot, Tea Leaf Chenin Blanc 2014 Piekenierskloof** *Fruit from a region where rooibos tea is grown, hence the name. Made by Donovan Rall. Barrel fermented in old and new oak.*
More smoky than oaky. Rich and mouth-watering on the palate, with some clementine freshness and pure zesty ripe citrus flavours. Long and beautifully balanced. (JH) 14% Drink 2015-2019
£10-£14.99 17
- **Yardstick, Marvelous Yellow 2013 Western Cape** *49% Chenin Blanc, 14% Sémillon, 14% Clairette Blanche, 13% Muscat d'Alexandrie, 10% Viognier. Personal project of Adam Mason, winemaker at Mulderbosch.*
Initial aroma is smart creamy oak so that the varieties are hard to discern. Hard to pick up the aromatic ingredients here as it is dominated by the waxy, quince-flavoured Chenin/Sémillon combination. Smart white and likely to become more interesting with time in bottle. **GV** (JH) 13% Drink 2015-2019
£10-£14.99 imported by Dreyfus Ashby 17
- **KWV, The Mentors Verdelho 2013 Stellenbosch** *Oak barrel fermented and aged for nine months. 50% new oak.*
Lovely yellow citrus with creaminess on the palate. Oak adds a gentle vanilla spice. Sophisticated and savoury. Really strong aromatic display. Pithy texture. (RH) 13.6% Drink 2015-2017
17
- **Haskell, Anvil Chardonnay 2012 Stellenbosch** *Stony vineyard. Decomposed granite and sandstone.*
Lovely purity on the nose, ripe yellow fruit but savoury and creamy/mealy too. Precise, bright and elegant. Plenty of fruit but a lot more. Intense and long. (JH) 13% Drink 2016-2022
£25.95 Lea & Sandeman 17
- **Thelema Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch** *Older vines (15-25 years) and warmer climate than the Sutherland Vineyards Sauvignon.*
This shows in the fruit intensity on the nose. Clean, cool, green-fruit and herbal qualities. The vine age really helps here. Intense but fresh. **GV** 13.5% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 17

- **Glenelly, Grand Vin Chardonnay 2013 Stellenbosch***10 months in 500-litre oak.*
The creamy/mealy oak is evident but very well judged to allow pristine citrus fruit to show alongside the cedary aroma of the oak. Delicious and harmonious – an expert balance of fruit and oak with real elegance and length. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2020
£15+ imported by Seckford Wines 17
- **Klein Constantia, Vin de Constance 2008 Constantia***100% Muscat de Frontignan.*
Intensely pure apricot and bitter orange. Such purity, with the merest hint of grip to the texture. At the end of a long tasting, this is soothing nectar – still so youthful and with good further ageing potential. (JH)14% Drink 2012-2022
£15+ imported by Seckford Wines 17
- **Longridge, Driefontein Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch***From a single vineyard, decomposed granite soils, no herbicides or pesticides. Natural yeasts, no enzymes, no fining, no filtration.*
Fills the nose and mouth with a crescendo of flavours that begin with subtle restraint yet grow into confident breadth. The classic notes of New World Sauvignon are all there - crushed asparagus, passion fruit, green mango - but in fine striations rather than the big blob that New World Sauvignon can so often be. Stony dry. Cut-glass acidity carrying a good length. (TC)13% Drink 2015-2019
17
- **The Three Foxes Clairette Blanche 2013 Swartland***Fermented on the skins. Chris Mullineux's private project – the three foxes are him and the Schild brothers. Old bush vines.*
Too dark in the room to see the colour but I suspect it is deep gold. Lovely aroma of quince, apricot and a hint of baked apple. Dry and textured without aggressive tannins – actually quite gentle on the palate but the flavours go on and on. More aromatic than some skin-fermented whites and finishes with fine freshness. Delicious. (JH)11.5% Drink 2015-2019
£15+ imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 17
- **KWV, The Mentors Chenin Blanc 2013 Coastal Region***62.5% Paarl, 27.5% Swartland, 10% Stellenbosch. Matured for six months in 500-litre second and third fill oak.*
Honeyed, ripe apple, bone dry and not too acidic. Archetypal wax texture with a woolly note too. Long, chewy, delicious. (RH)13.9% Drink 2015-2020
17
- **KWV, The Mentors Grenache Blanc 2014 Paarl***Lots of fruit - crab apple, star fruit and crystallised ginger. Zesty acid - very distinctive. Defiantly non-neutral! Peachy, fragrant and dry to finish.* (RH)13.5% Drink 2015-2019
17
- **Thelema Chardonnay 2013 Stellenbosch***Compared with the Sutherland Chardonnay, here you can see the greater depth from the old vines. Mealy and just a touch smokily reductive but the fruit is rich enough to handle this winemaking style. Big, generous but fresh, well-oaked Chardonnay. A big flavour but not heavy. And should develop well in the bottle. A toasty aftertaste.* (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2018
£10-£14.99 16.5+
- **Longridge Chardonnay 2014 Stellenbosch***Herbal cream on the nose with a touch of sweetness. A strand of flavour in this wine that reminds me, surprisingly, of garrigue. Perhaps it's fynbos? Ginger- and lime-etched fruit, quite tightly coiled on the mid palate and not particularly expressive or expansive at this stage - but then it's probably only been out of oak for three or four months. As with the Chenin, there is very good structure and tension here, but there's a big oaked 'Keep off the grass' sign and I wouldn't broach this wine until closer to the end of 2016.* (TC)12.5% Drink 2016-2021
16.5+
- **Hartenberg Chardonnay 2013 Stellenbosch***Barrel fermented, one-third new.*

Straightforward creamy Chardonnay, with a light note of toast on the palate but the citrus freshness is the driving force. Bright and not at all heavy, all in harmony and satisfying. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2018

£10-£14.99 imported by Bancroft Wines 16.5

- **Amares Chardonnay 2012 Stellenbosch**Very toasty and just a little bit oxidative on the palate. Round, fleshy and fat. Lacking acid but has plenty of butter. (RH)13.94% Drink 2014-2022
£14.20 Theatre of Wine 16.5
- **Boutinot, Perdeberg Dry Lands Collection Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc 2014 Paarl**New oak. Both smoky and creamy on the nose. Bright and zesty citrus and green apple - crisp across the palate, the fruit not the oak highlighted. Very young but with all the components for improving in bottle - tight, fresh and well structured round the fruit. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2019
£10-£14.99 16.5
- **Spioenkop Riesling 2013 Elgin**Already showing a hint of mature Riesling in the aroma - still plenty of lemon/lime fruit but also a hint of honey and cedar. That cedary/woody (not oaky) character more evident on the palate. Very crisp and just a light feeling of tannin, as if there had been some skin contact. Pure and zesty and long. I presume this will age well (and probably longer than my drink dates suggest) but I have not tasted older vintages. (JH)12% Drink 2015-2018
£15+ imported by Boutinot 16.5
- **Waterkloof, Circumstance Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch***Vineyard close to the ocean. Wild ferment in big old oak.*
On the nose, the Sauvignon Blanc character only just noticeable - very subtle. More in evidence on the palate but still on the restrained side - more Loire-like but richer on the mid palate. I wonder if this is bone dry, there's some rich citrus flavour on the very end and a touch of sweetness (I checked - 4 g/l RS), which does bother me a bit. I prefer my Sauvignon Blanc dry, even if sweetness is needed to balance the acidity, though I know that the fermentation sometimes just stops. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 imported by Boutinot 16.5
- **Nederburg, Heritage Heroes The Beautiful Lady Gewurztraminer 2013 Stellenbosch**Benchmark Gewürz aromas of rose petals and lychees. Rose-flavoured Turkish delight in a glass. Off dry, intense and avoids all bitterness - the hint of sweetness seems to highlight the aromas. Benchmark character that might just go well with something like a fragrant green Thai curry. Persistent as well as intense. Probably a love it or hate it wine. (JH)12.8% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Distell Europe 16.5
- **Momento Chenin Blanc/Verdelho 2014 Western Cape**85% *Chenin Blanc*, 15% *Verdelho*. Subtle but definite aromas: apricot and apple. Firm, fresh and lightly textured. The blend works well here giving an aromatic profile but also a satisfying texture. Just a slight note of boiled sweets on the finish - some residual sugar, or is it simply fruit sweetness? (JH)12.5% Drink 2015-2018
£15+ imported by Armit 16.5
- **Capensis Chardonnay 2013 Western Cape**This wine, made for the Jackson Family Estates team by Cape Town-born, US-based Jackson winemaker Graham Weerts, is the American company's first South African release and is a bit like all the wines from this stable: absolutely reliable, distinctly superior, but not thrilling. It's an excellent Cape answer to white burgundy with good tension and is based on vineyards in high-altitude Stellenbosch (60% of the blend) plus contributions from Kaaimansgut and Robertson selected by Rosa Kruger. I'm glad it exists and I hope it will help to put South Africa on the American wine lovers' map.14.5% Drink 2015-2019
16.5
- **Bouchard Finlayson, Missionvale Chardonnay 2012 Walker Bay**First impression is inviting

green fruit, citrus and smart but subtle oak. Much better than the Galpin Peak Pinot just tasted. Dry, slightly chalky/stony on the palate, not especially long. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2017 £15+ imported by Seckford Wines 16.5

- Ezibusweni Chenin Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch Creamy, toffee, sweet spice, apple. Slight roasted nut note. Suppressed on the nose - but the kind of wine that is built to last. (RH)14% Drink 2016-2022 16.5
- Rustenberg Sauvignon Blanc 2015 Stellenbosch Cool, stony and fresh. Completely dry, restrained and suitable for the table as well as on its own. Subtle but persistent with the Sauvignon Blanc character definite but not excessively pungent. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2016 £10-£14.99 imported by Seckford Wines 16.5
- Ezibusweni Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch Creamy, buttery, sweet, juicy. Long, honeyed and rich. A tour de force. (RH)16% Drink 2015-2018 16.5
- Kaapzicht, The 1947 Chenin Blanc 2014 Bottelary *Oldest vineyard, barrel fermented, no SO2. He'd quite like to avoid malo.*
The sample is rather cold but the wine still has fresh creamy/cedary aromas with bright citrus. Cool and fresh and unexpectedly light on its feet but it has kept lots of freshness even after malo. Sweet citrus finish contrasts with the cedar-like freshness from the oak. (JH)13.24% Drink 2015-2018 £8-£9.99 imported by Seckford Wines 16.5
- Delaire Graff Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Western Cape Smoky, perhaps a little reductive, but plenty of Sauvignon Blanc fruit here too. Some green fig and sugar pea but held in fine balance with citrus to give an aromatic but not pungent wine. Well-judged style. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2016 £10-£14.99 imported by Armit 16.5
- Villiera, Down to Earth 2014 Stellenbosch 50% Sauvignon Blanc, 50% Sémillon.
Aroma is subtle but the sample is also very cold - perhaps a little salty. Citrus and green fruits but not strongly Sauvignon Blanc-like. Refined, minerally and long with a slight creaminess on the palate. Cool and elegant - an anti-blockbuster but persistent and **GV**. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2017 £8-£9.99 imported by Dreyfus Ashby 16.5
- Villiera, Jasmine 2014 Stellenbosch 45% Muscat d'Alexandrie, 35% Gewürztraminer, 20% Riesling.
The name of this wine is spot on - floral and orange scented - orange blossom too and a touch grapey. Captivatingly aromatic. And the palate is a faithful reflection of all those aromas. I don't think this would stand up to food but it offers lots of scented pleasure. The Gewürz does not dominate and Riesling's citrus core comes through on the sustained finish. Deliciously scented. (JH)11.5% Drink 2015-2016 £10-£14.99 imported by Dreyfus Ashby 16.5
- Leeuwenkuil Chenin Blanc 2014 Swartland Masses of tension and character. Pure and intense with great structure and absolutely pure varietal character. Long and tingly with a dry finish and an attractively palate-polishing texture. Hint of honey aroma but no sweetness. **VGV**13% Drink 2015-2019 £6.30 RRP 16+
- Leeuwenkuil, Heritage Chenin Blanc 2013 Swartland Intense and dense. Tastes off dry and quite tight still. Ambitious. Slightly bitter on the finish. 13% Drink 2016-2020 £23 RRP 16+
- Longridge Chenin Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch *Whole-bunch pressed, no commercial yeast, enzymes or fining agents. Fermentation for 10 -14 days in French oak barrels with regular bâtonnage before racking. Not filtered or cold stabilised 'and may therefore in time show*

harmless sediment'. Aged 11 months in new and seasoned French oak barrels.

Pale gold. Roasted wheat kernels and wild flowers sit lightly on the nose. Steely taut, starting off clenched jaw, the acidity drawing unfriendly angles across the tongue until about halfway through when an undeniable trace of richness starts to break through and some dusty, honeyed straw notes suggest there's an interesting future ahead. For the moment, however, it's still looking very young (unlike the 2013 which seemed quite ready at the same age), it's wearing the oak on its sleeve, and it hasn't quite settled into its stride. (TC)13% Drink 2016-2022

16+

- **Cederberg Wines Bukettraube 2014 Cederberg**A *Sylvaner x Schiava Grossa (aka Trollinger) cross. Cool, slow ferment. RS 25 g/l, pH 3.2.*
Smoky reductive nose. Touch of struck match. Clean and crisp and citrusy on the palate, well balanced between high acidity and the residual sweetness. The reductive winemaking style makes it hard to distinguish the varietal character of Bukettraube but it does have a creamy apricot flavour on the palate. Would be great with something a little spicy. When I tasted this again in October, that reductive character seemed to have disappeared, leaving lots of pure citrus - lemon and clementine - flavours and quite a luscious texture. (JH)Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Bancroft Wines 16
- **Waterkloof, Circle of Life 2012 Stellenbosch**60% *Sauvignon Blanc, 35% Chenin Blanc, 5% Sémillon.*
Very slightly reductive note on the nose - smoky bacon in homeopathic doses - zesty and tangy and fresh. Not particularly concentrated but sustained and harmonious. Dry, mouth-watering finish that invites the next sip. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 imported by Boutinot 16
- **Quando Sauvignon Blanc 2015 Robertson**A lovely middle ground between pungent and restrained - with plenty of Sauvignon Blanc grassy green fruit but not OTT. And there's a bit of weight on the palate to give it some persistence. (JH)12.5% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Dreyfus Ashby 16
- **Olifantsberg Chenin Blanc 2014 Breedekloof**Very cool site (elevation and ocean). A slightly cedary aroma (not typically oaky) but more sign of oak in the spice on the palate. Juicy, fresh, apple-fruited and harmonious if not terribly exciting. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 16
- **Groot Constantia Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Durbanville**60% *Sémillon, 40% Sauvignon Blanc.*
Complex nose - spice, touch of fennel and a chalky, almost floral quality. Fresh but softly textured on the palate. Cool, fresh but not very intense or long. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 16
- **Bloemendal, Kanonberg Semillon/Sauvignon 2014 Durbanville**Highly aromatic - sugar pea and green fig and capsicum - classic South African Sauvignon Blanc aromas. On the palate, the texture just rounded out by the Sémillon. Very fresh and lively. Not especially intense on the mid palate and a shortish finish - most of the impact and flavour is up front. (JH)12.5% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 16
- **Haskell, Dombeya Chardonnay 2012 Stellenbosch**10% *new oak. No malo.*
Intense, clean, tight citrus and nicely savoury on the finish. Sophisticated, especially at this price. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2018
£13.95 Lea & Sandeman 16
- **Thelema, Sutherland Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Elgin**Surprisingly reticent on the nose. Just lightly grassy. But has fine limey freshness on the palate. Elegant - retains varietal character but shows the cool-climate origin in equal measure. Lightish on the palate but not

lean. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2016

£10-£14.99 16

- **Spier, Creative Block 2 Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon 2014 Coastal Region**85% *Sauvignon Blanc*, 15% *Sémillon*.
Chalky pea-pod aroma - an aroma that for me is classic SA Sauvignon Blanc. Hard to see the Sémillon except perhaps in a little more weight on the palate. Full fruited, lively, fresh. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 16
- **Springfield, Miss Lucy 2014 Robertson**46% *Sauvignon Blanc*, 35% *Sémillon*, 19% *Pinot Gris*.
Abrie Bruwer wanted a wine to go with fish, and Miss Lucy is, apparently, the affectionate name for the Red Stumpnose fish (on the label). First vintage.
Subtle citrus notes on the nose with just a touch of Sauvignon Blanc herbal quality. Ripe and sweet/sour on the palate, the Sémillon adding a richness and length behind the Sauvignon Blanc. Also some pear flavour on the finish, perhaps due to the Pinot Gris. (JH)12% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 imported by Walker and Wodehouse 16
- **Steenberg Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Constantia**Smoky and much less pea-pod/green-fig flavour than I remember from earlier vintages. More grassy on the palate but overall a bit subdued, though there's good length. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 imported by Walker and Wodehouse 16
- **KWV, The Mentors Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Elim**Green bean aromas with more fruit concentration than their Darling Sauvignon Blanc. Sweet, juicy, ripe and tropical. (RH)13% Drink 2015-2016
16
- **Mulderbosch, Faithful Hound 2013 Stellenbosch**57% *Sémillon*, 43% *Sauvignon Blanc*.
Smoky, oaky aroma. Ripe citrus - towards pineapple - and toasty. Full-throttle oaked Bordeaux blend. Broad and flavourful but I'd be hard pressed to say where it came from if I tasted it blind. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2018
£15+ imported by Armit 16
- **Mulderbosch Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Western Cape**Pea pod on the nose. Dry and crisp on the palate. All present and correct. And mercifully dry-tasting. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Armit 16
- **Hartenberg Riesling 2013 Stellenbosch**Plenty of Riesling citrus - lemon and lime - but also a hint of development in the kerosene direction. Dryish, fresh and zesty - I would drink this with or without food. Not sure about ageing potential as I haven't tasted older vintages, hence my caution. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 imported by Bancroft Wines 16
- **Cederberg Wines, Private Cellar Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Cederberg**Intense box-tree and green fig aromas but just avoids extremes. Tangy, flavourful, tastes pretty dry, and just a touch smoky. Full of varietal flavour. Citrus and orange pith flavours. Lively, fresh, very well balanced in a what tastes like an off-dry dry style. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Bancroft Wines 16
- **Kaapzicht Chenin Blanc 2015 Stellenbosch**Fragrant fresh citrus. Tangy with a really attractive pear-grain texture. Bright, fresh and **GV**, that chalky texture adding to the length. (JH)13.24% Drink 2015-2016
£8-£9.99 imported by Seckford Wines 16
- **Ataraxia Chardonnay 2014 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge**Barrel fermented. Ripe, verging on tropical, though there's citrus freshness too. More complex on the palate, the barrel ferment giving a creamy texture and an oatmeal and clementine flavour - more burgundian on the palate. But ripe and sweet tasting on the finish. Rich but dry enough - I think it needs a bit longer in bottle

to settle down. (JH)13.5% Drink 2016-2020

£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 16

- Paul Cluver Sauvignon Blanc 2015 Elgin90% *Sauvignon Blanc*, 10% *Sémillon*. Slightly reductive (rubbery) aspect to the fresh green fruits. Or it may be the SO₂. Better - fresher and more delineated - on the palate. Bright, zesty and mouth-watering. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Seckford Wines 16
- Ataraxia Sauvignon Blanc 2015 Hemel-en-Aarde RidgeUnoaked. Box-tree aromas to the fore and a touch of passionfruit. Aromatic but not pungent. Sweet/sour impression on the palate - either a little RS or lots of fruit sweetness but the effect is like sucking a boiled sweet. Apparently 3.4 g/l RS. Drier please. Hence the minus. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Bancroft Wines 16-
- Thelema, Sutherland Vineyards Chardonnay 2012 Elgin*Barrel fermented and 10 months in French oak*. The oak dominates the nose at the moment - inviting and creamy with just a hint of struck-match reduction. More struck match on the palate and only just enough fruit concentration to handle it. Finishes fresh but slightly tart, hence the minus. *Might* be better in a couple of years. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 16-
- Springfield, Life from Stone Sauvignon Blanc 2014 RobertsonHerbally fragrant, with a smoky mineral flavour on the palate. But there's a slight rubbery reductive note on the back of the palate which spoils the finish, hence the minus. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Walker and Wodehouse 16-
- Waterkloof, Seriously Cool Chenin Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch*From vineyards cooled by proximity to False Bay*. Herbal, cedary citrus. Tastes somehow old fashioned - of old oak - and a bit dilute on the palate. Disappointing, especially after the Seriously Cool Cinsault. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2016
£11-£14.99 imported by Boutinot 15.5
- Swartland Winery, Founders 2015 Western CapePear drops on the nose - cool ferment. Lively and fresh and easy but has some definite Chenin character - apple fruit, crisp acidity. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2016
£7.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 15.5
- Darling Cellars, Granite Sauvignon Blanc 2014 DarlingExtremely reticent on the nose for a Sauvignon Blanc. Light, crisp and just a little watery. Nice attempt at restraint but needs a bit more follow through. (JH)12.5% Drink 2015-2016
£8-£9.99 imported by Seckford Wines 15.5
- The Stellenbosch Reserve Chardonnay 2014 StellenboschSame owner as Rust en Vrede. Fresh, melon fruit, extreme restraint in the oak. Subtle and fresh but a bit dull. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Seckford Wines 15.5
- Leeuwenkuil Marsanne 2014 Voor PaardebergBroad, blossomy nose but a tad lacking intensity on the palate. Just a little watery. Drink 2016-2017
£13.50 RRP 15.5
- KWV, The Mentors Semillon 2008 Western CapeSmoke and asparagus - much more like Margaret River than Hunter Valley. Grassy, glossy. Ultimately under-developed - not showing much secondary character, still reliant on fruit. (RH)13.3% Drink 2010-2015
15.5
- KWV, The Mentors Sauvignon Blanc 2014 DarlingGreen bean, gooseberry, candied fruit - unmistakable New World Sauvignon Blanc. Lots of flavour delivery though the palate has a little dilution. Predictable, but that's hardly a criticism. I just wonder if stylistically, this is going

slightly out of fashion? (RH)13% Drink 2015-2016

15.5

- **Baleia Sauvignon Blanc 2015 Cape South Coast** Green grassy nose and then some peachy sweetness on the palate. A little hard on the end but refreshing. A bit drying on the end. 13.6% Drink 2015-2016
15.5
- **Nederburg, Ingenuity 2013 Western Cape** 33% *Sauvignon Blanc*, 19% *Chardonnay*, 18% *Sémillon*, 10% *Chenin Blanc*, 6% *Roussanne*, 6% *Verdelho*, 6% *Viognier*, 2% *Gewürztraminer*. Cedary/oaky aroma that mostly covers the varietal characteristics though I can smell the green-fig character of the Sauvignon Blanc. Sauvignon dominates the palate too, with a lightly creamy texture. I think there are too many components here to meld fully. All a bit here and there. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2017
£15+ imported by Distell Europe 15.5
- **KWV, The Mentors Chardonnay 2013 Elgin** Pineapple, cream, sweet yet savoury on the finish. Integrated oak, though certainly evident on the nose especially. Slightly bitter finish. (RH)13.3% Drink 2014-2015
15
- **Baleia, Inge Chardonnay 2014 Cape South Coast** Sweet and peachy on the nose. Is this the product of cultured yeasts or enzymes? Super modern and clean but far from funky. Just a little dull but certainly competent, if a little dull and flat on the end. 13.6% Drink 2015-2016
15
- **Swartland Winery, Bush Vine Chenin Blanc 2014 Swartland** *Six months in new oak*. Creamy, mealy oak aroma dominates at the moment and there's a slightly sour quality on the palate. Hard, at the moment at least. Maybe it will improve in bottle. Not convinced. (JH)13% Drink 2015-2017
£12.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 15

ROSE

- **Waterkloof, Circumstance Cape Coral Rosé Mourvèdre 2015 Stellenbosch** *Bottled early (May instead of Oct) because they had run out of the 2014 - so this is not really the final wine*. Salty aroma with a touch of celery salt and just slightly peppery. Dry and stony on the palate with just enough fruit to give balance. A bit dilute in the middle but persists. I'd wait for the later bottling (ie don't buy it just yet) but this shows the potential. (JH)12.5% Drink 2015-2016
£10-£14.99 imported by Boutinot 16

RED

- **Bloemendal Syrah 2012 Durbanville** *Very cool vineyard - high up and near the sea*. Fine peppery cool-climate Syrah nose. Gently floral. Gorgeously refined with silky texture and tannins that you might easily overlook. Super elegant and yet persistent. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2020
£15+ imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 17.5
- **Thelema Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 Stellenbosch** Classic Thelema Cabernet Sauvignon nose - minty cassis intensity. Still seems very young. Bold flavours in an elegant texture - smooth but with a fine grain. Fresh and full-blooded Cab on the finish. More complexity to come - it still seems so youthful. (JH)14.5% Drink 2015-2025

£15+ 17+

- Haskell, Hades 2014 Stellenbosch *Barrel sample. Single vineyard. Tough site full of rocks.* Great finesse to the dark fruit here, and finesse in the tannins. Pure, dark and dry. Savoury, peppery, full of energy. A baby. Drink 2017-2024
17+
- Glenelly, Grand Vin 2009 Stellenbosch *42% Shiraz, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot.* Biscuity, savoury spiced aroma. You can see the Bordeaux/Stellenbosch crossover here – dry finesse in the tannins but they are firm and thick from the oak. Dark and just a little meaty. Big and bold but still refined and still fresh for a warm vintage. (JH)14.5% Drink 2015-2022
£15+ imported by Seckford Wines 17+
- DeMorgenzon, Reserve Syrah 2012 Stellenbosch *Inky and dark. Concentrated but the Syrah peppery fragrance still escapes. Lovely depth without excess of tannin or sweetness. Deep and long and impressive. Dry finesse and a chewy finish. Lots more to come.* (JH)14.5% Drink 2015-2020
£15+ imported by Seckford Wines 17
- Waterkloof, Circumstance Cabernet Franc 2013 Stellenbosch *Cabernet Franc's classic aromas but subtly so – on the herbaceous side but not excessively, certainly not green. Full of energy and a deliciously dry, fine-boned texture. Super-elegant and cool. Almost weightless but still long.* (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2018
£15+ imported by Boutinot 17
- Goose Wines, The Goose Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Upper Langkloof *Deep crimson. Ripe earthy blackcurrant with assertive pea-pod and lovage notes on the nose. Sweet dark berries flood the palate, picked up by a wave of mouth-watering acidity and then long-legged, muscular tannins – powerful and thoroughbred – provide a tight harness to the velvety fruit and charm, bringing it to a dry pared-back finish. Not drying, though. A green herbal Cabernet Sauvignon thread runs the length of the palate lending bite and freshness. Beautiful balance.*
VGW (TC)14% Drink 2015-2022
£12.99 Hard to Find Wines, £13.95 South Downs Cellars 17
- Ernie Els, Signature Syrah 2011 Stellenbosch *Bordeaux blend. Cedary black fruit and a little spicity on the nose (but that may be because the sample is warm). Firm, compact texture with nicely dry tannins. Big and bold and not yet showing much development. Excellent freshness but needs longer in bottle.* (JH)14.5% Drink 2017-2025
£15+ imported by Seckford Wines 17
- Delaire Graff, Botmaskop 2013 Stellenbosch *63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 12% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec.* Leafy freshness allied to ripe cassis on the nose. Cedar notes from the oak and the Cabernet Sauvignon. Again it has a leafy quality to the flavour but there's a beautiful balance that indicates restraint without loss of fruit depth. Lively finish, moreish. (JH)14.5% Drink 2015-2023
£15+ imported by Armit 17
- Olifantsberg Syrah 2011 Breedekloof *10-year-old vines on steep schist – looks like Priorat, according to buyer Steve Daniel.* Peppery and alive on the nose, smoky black fruit – finely aromatic. Has a hint of the rubbery character of Rhône Syrah on the palate but it is part of the varietal character rather than intrusive. Smooth, rounded but definite tannins and a long finish. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2020
£10-£14.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 17
- Cederberg Wines, Private Cellar V Generation Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 Cederberg *Colour of elderberry juice. The dark fruit covered in sweetly spiced oak for the moment – with a touch of vanilla. Deep in dark cassis fruit, rounded and pure. Fine-grained, smoothed tannins. Long*

finish. Classy varietal. (JH)14% Drink 2016-2023

£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 17

- **Cederberg Wines, Private Cellar Shiraz 2013 Cederberg***12 months in oak, some new, including a very small percentage of US oak.*
Sweet dark fruit is more cassis than blackberry. Chewy and rich, full of fruit but still fresh. Firm at the moment but all in balance, just a slight alcohol heat on the finish. Concentrated and dense. Needs time. (JH)14.5% Drink 2016-2019
£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 17
- **The Three Foxes Carignan 2012 Swartland***Chris Mullineux's private project - the three foxes are him and the Schild brothers.*
Really inviting aroma - smoky, savoury and dark. Lithe and utterly fresh, the tannins super-fine. Delicious - the sort of wine you could drink all evening. Tastes younger than it is and I think it will age further/well. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2020
£15+ imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 17
- **Kaapzicht, Steytler Vision 2012 Stellenbosch***55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Pinotage, 10% Merlot. Aged in 100% new oak.*
Minty cassis. Creamy, rich and full-bodied. The Cabernet Sauvignon dominates the flavour and this wine is not at all ready for drinking. Promises greater elegance and complexity but all the components are there. (JH)14.5% Drink 2019-2025
£15+ imported by Seckford Wines 17
- **Rhebokskloof Syrah/Mourvèdre/Grenache 2012 Paarl***Pretty funky nose that could be southern Rhône. Light and fresh. Very sweet start. Real excitement to this. Long and rich but not heavy.*
VGW 13.5% Drink 2014-2019
£11.95 Corney & Barrow 17
- **Ataraxia, Serenity 2010 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge***A Shiraz-based blend but it may change from year to year so they do not divulge what the other varieties are (seems daft to me - just because you reveal the components doesn't mean you can't change them) - the aim, according to winemaker Kevin Grant, is 'a whisper not a shout'.*
Deep cherry red. Subtle dark fruit with a touch of spicy oak sweetness. Lithe and zesty on the palate, the tannins melded but still present. Plenty of freshness and seems a lot younger than its years. Seems like a big whisper to me but it has achieved harmony. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2020
£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 17
- **Longridge, Ekliptika 2013 Stellenbosch***Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot. Made in French oak barrels, natural yeast, no fining, no enzymes, no filtration. Biodynamic viticulture. 2,299 bottles made.*
Juniper berries, smoky red fruit, purity on that nose. Marked elegance on the palate. Savoury, tannins buffed to a shine, gleaming red fruit, but nothing opulent, nothing in excess. A quiet undertow of graphite and pencil shavings. Lovely. I'd really just like a bit more length... please.
(TC)14% Drink 2015-2022
17-
- **Ataraxia Pinot Noir 2014 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge***First vintage made by winemaker Kevin Grant, ex Hamilton Russell. Not yet released.*
Pale garnet. Interesting and complex aroma: sweet, cherry-fruited and a little earthy and spicy. Very good on the palate, silky, with depth and length and a tart cherry freshness to finish. I suspect this will get more interesting in a year or so. (JH)13.5% Drink 2016-2019
£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 16.5+
- **Hartenberg, Stork Shiraz 2011 Stellenbosch***20 months in new oak. Right next to the Gravel Hill vineyard but almost pure clay.*
This seems more refined than the Gravel Hill, counter-intuitively given the clay v gravel

contrast. Fresher fruited and more peppery, maybe simply because it is younger but that's not the whole story. This is finer boned, less ripe and more elegant. Perhaps a cooler vintage? Just starting to show a more savoury, meaty quality on the finish. I think this will get more interesting with longer in bottle. (JH)14.5% Drink 2015-2020

£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 16.5+

- **Goose Wines, The Goose Shiraz 2011 Upper Langkloof**The warm salty-sweet-spiced smell of Jamón ibérico climbs out the glass underneath a whiff of paint thinners, and then a bit of coffee-soaked plum. Tannins plough the pathway to sharp red fruit and black chocolate flavours. Supple, but very structured. Savoury and with an alcoholic warmth that feels more than the 14% stated on the label. Very tangy finish, in a fresh redcurrant and cranberry sort of way. Some spice on the mid palate, but this is not a typical thick-fruited mocha-flavoured SA Shiraz. The finish is positively mouth-watering. Oranges and a tinge of Kenyan coffee beans. This would be so good with North African cuisine. **VGV** (TC)14% Drink 2014-2020
£13.99 Hard to Find Wines, £13.95 South Downs Cellars 16.5
- **Mulderbosch, Faithful Hound 2013 Western Cape**39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Cabernet Franc, 16% Alicante Bouschet, 14% Malbec, 9% Petit Verdot.
Lightly dusty dark fruit, a bit spicity (but this may be the warm sample). Much fresher on the palate than I expected, a complex melding of fruit flavours, with fine tannins and vibrant overall. Still very primary. (JH)14% Drink 2016-2020
£15+ imported by Armit 16.5
- **Hartenberg Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Stellenbosch**Minty, herbal cassis with a slight rocky/graphite note to temper the Cabernet Sauvignon aromas. A little spicity on the nose but that may be just because the sample is on the warm side. Rich and chewy, generous in fruit and persistent. Good if a bit predictable - but should get more interesting in the bottle as everything is in place. (JH)14.5% Drink 2015-2020
£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 16.5
- **KWV, The Mentors Shiraz 2012 Paarl**25% whole bunch fermentation. Matured 18 months in oak (85% French, 15% American) of which 70% was new.
Supercharged fragrance, dried spicy meat (like chorizo), blackberry jam. There is a faint rubber note but it fits into the flavour profile. Very soft tannin, could use a bit more grip. Chocolate and smoke on the finish. Really extrovert. (RH)14.5% Drink 2014-2018
16.5
- **Waterkloof, Seriously Cool Cinsault 2014 Stellenbosch**Vines planted in the 1960s, about 2 km from Waterkloof's own vineyards and cooled by their proximity to False Bay.
Scented with red cherry and gently floral, perhaps a hint of orange. Dry and finely textured, just a whisper of tannin. Subtle and long. Should age well thanks to its inherent freshness - and having seen how well old-vine South African Cinsault can age. (JH)12% Drink 2015-2019
£11-£14.99 imported by Boutinot 16.5
- **Nederburg, II Centuries Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 Western Cape**Cedary and autumnal, but slightly spicity on the nose. Aroma reminds me a bit of dried tomatoes. Big and savoury and showing attractive maturity - undergrowth and Marmite (yeast extract) meatiness. Chewy and flavourful. (JH)14.68% Drink 2013-2018
£15+ imported by Distell Europe 16.5
- **Groot Constantia, Gouverneurs Reserve 2012 Western Cape**44% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Franc, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot.
Classic herbaceous aroma of traditional South African Bordeaux blend. A touch minty. Mouth-watering and super-smooth, with fruit sweetness to balance the freshness. Really juicy on the finish and elegant in texture. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2022
£15+ imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 16.5
- **Longridge Merlot 2013 Stellenbosch**Ripe warm vine tomatoes, damson and just an edge of

something feral on the nose. Opulently ripe, luscious red fruit. Monolithic. Velvet-armchair tannins and plumply cushioned fruit that one cannot help but sink deeply into. A slightly charred green seam running along the length, and nipping in tightly on the finish. Hefty alcohol, but it holds the balance, just... (TC)15% Drink 2015-2019

16.5

- Longridge Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Stellenbosch Blackberry and sweet dustiness and really quite pungent notes of blackcurrant bush. A lesson in New World varietal Cabernet Sauvignon! Ripe, but quite tightly contained, cassis fruit that segues into a very firm green-pepper crunch on the finish. Could do with more length, but real benchmarking stuff here. (TC)14% Drink 2015-2021
16.5
- Thelema, Sutherland Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon/Petit Verdot 2010 Elgin 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Petit Verdot.
Leafy, rich in dark fruit, but a bit spirity too (NB 15% alcohol). Again, it has cool-climate freshness but pretty intense fruit flavours – cassis, black cherry – and plenty of zesty richness. Hard to believe this is 2010. (JH)15% Drink 2015-2020
£15+ 16.5
- Thelema Shiraz 2012 Stellenbosch Warm, earthy spice is very inviting. A light cedary note, perhaps from the oak. Ripe and full bodied, very smooth - almost thick - tannins but freshened, just, by a spicy aftertaste. Could do with a bit more freshness. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2019
£15+ 16.5
- Springfield, Whole Berry Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 Robertson Apparently this is destemmed and not crushed but it does smell slightly stemmy/herbal. A rubbery note on the palate too – perhaps it needs air? Excellent freshness and pure fruit even so. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2018
£10-£14.99 imported by Walker and Wodehouse 16.5
- Yardstick, Marvelous Red 2013 Western Cape 42% Syrah, 41% Cinsaut, 7% Mourvèdre, 6% Grenache, 4% Viognier. Personal project of Adam Mason, winemaker at Mulderbosch.
Deliciously scented with red cherry and a hint of orange that I often detect with Cinsaut. Utterly drinkable and digestible – fresh, supple and persistent while staying really light on its feet. Juicy finish. I don't know how this will age, or if it will get a chance to, but I would love taste it in five years even though its pleasure focus is currently the red fruit. **GV** (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2020
£10-£14.99 imported by Dreyfus Ashby 16.5
- Glenelly, The Glass Collection Syrah 2011 Stellenbosch 100% whole bunch.
Wonderful smoky layer over ripe but very fresh black fruit. Unusually fine, dry tannins, perhaps thanks to the whole-bunch fermentation. Moreish, dark and yet full of energy. **GV** (JH)14% Drink 2016-2020
£10-£14.99 imported by Seckford Wines 16.5
- Rust en Vrede 2011 Stellenbosch 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Shiraz, 9% Merlot.
Cassis with a touch of dark chocolate on the nose. Rich, chewy, with lots of spice. Plenty of oak, plenty of fruit, but lacks real fragrance and finesse. Well made in a now rather predictable style, the alcohol borderline intrusive. (JH)15% Drink 2015-2019
£15+ imported by Seckford Wines 16.5
- Rust en Vrede Syrah 2012 Stellenbosch Much more fragrant than the Estate red blend. Pepper, spice, rich blackberry and then more savoury and dark on the palate. Some graphite elegance here even in such a big, powerful wine. The fruit dominates the oak but it is slightly aggressive on the finish. Needs time. (JH)14.9% Drink 2016-2022
£15+ imported by Seckford Wines 16.5
- Nederburg, Ingenuity Italian Red 2012 Western Cape 50% Sangiovese, 45% Barbera, 5% Nebbiolo. Flask-shaped bottle, apparently hand made in Italy.

Dusty, spicy, black-cherry fruit. Definitely has the Italian bite on the finish, cherry fresh but rounded and smooth in texture. Italy tamed. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2018
£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 16.5

- **Swartland Winery, Bush Vine Syrah 2013 Swartland**12 months in new French oak.
Oak sweetness to begin, but there's a more smoky, peppery dark-fruited Shiraz character dominating. Concentrated and velvet textured, with plenty of freshness to balance - sweet/sour finish. Needs time to show more complexity. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2019
£12.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 16+
- **Ridgeback 2011 Paarl**Mid cherry red. South African Merlot is not famously successful, but this won a gold medal at the 2013 Michelangelo International Wine Awards FWIW. Minty fresh nose with a hint of spearmint. Very sweet and thick on the palate entry with some sweet oak - some American? Very dense yet with quite a bit of acidity on the finish. Served reasonably warm, this should give pleasure. Tannins almost all melted away. A bit of heat on the finish. This winery's wares are sold by The Real Wine Company in the UK but not this one currently.14% Drink 2013-2018
16
- **KWV, The Mentors Cabernet Franc 2012 Stellenbosch**Very true to type, with tomato stalk and sappy fruit. Dry, sausage meat and stewed fruit. Smoke on the finish. Fairly simple persistence. Worth trying chilled. (RH)14.6% Drink 2013-2015
16
- **KWV, The Mentors Petit Verdot 2012 Stellenbosch**18 months in oak.
Quite a bit of wood spice, then relatively restrained fruit. Tight structure but the tannin is well balanced. A few bitter touches on the finish. (RH)13.9% Drink 2015-2019
16
- **KWV, The Mentors Orchestra 2012 Coastal Region**53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Cabernet Franc, 18% Petit Verdot, 4% Merlot, 4% Malbec. Aged for 18 months in 100% French oak of which 70% is new.
Smoke, coffee cream, blackcurrant and spice with reasonably firm tannic grip. Some rubber notes on the finish. Structured for food. Warm finish. (RH)14.7% Drink 2015-2020
16
- **KWV, The Mentors Canvas 2012 Coastal Region**45% Shiraz, 25% Tempranillo, 15% Mourvèdre, 15% Grenache. Matured 18 months in 50% new oak.
Juicy blackberry fruit. Finishes with slight grip. Leathery, slight menthol tones. Heavy but balanced and smooth, polished structure. (RH)14.4% Drink 2015-2020
16.5
- **KWV, Abraham Perold Insignis 2012 Coastal Region**100% Shiraz. Fruit cake, liquorice, menthol, lots of thickness. Rather over-processed. Doesn't gel so well as their Mentors Shiraz. (RH)14.6% Drink 2015-2020
16
- **Cederberg Wines, David Nieuwoudt Ghost Corner Pinot Noir 2014 Elim**Pale garnet. Definitely burgundian in its savoury, not-too-sweet red fruit character. Dry with a hint of baked rubber on the finish. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2017
£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 16
- **Nederburg, Heritage Heroes The Motorcycle Marvel 2013 Western Cape**30% Carignan, 30% Grenache, 30% Shiraz, 5% Cinsaut, 5% Mourvèdre.
Dark fruit seasoned with pepper and a touch of mocha. Similar flavours on the palate, the dark fruit velvety and caressing, and just a little bit of heat on the finish. Crowd-pleasing roundness. (JH)14.24% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 imported by Distell Europe 16
- **Boer & Brit, The General 2013 Western Cape**60% Cabernet Franc, 35% Petit Verdot, 5%

Merlot. Made by descendants of a Boer and a Brit who fought in the Boer War.

The aroma is definitely Cabernet Franc – dark-red fruit, very slightly herbal, with graphite/stony notes. Sweetness of fruit on the palate seems to come more from the Petit Verdot but it is held in check by the fresh acidity. Fine dry tannins, not especially concentrated but persistent. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2018

£10-£14.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 16

- *Baleia, Erhard Pinot Noir 2013 Cape South Coast*Pale ruby. The vegy/beetroot spectrum of Pinot aromas. Fresh start. This tastes like the red varietal most at home here. Good delicate fruit intensity on the palate and some real interest. No obvious confection. Good fruit impact on the mid palate. Even if slightly inky on the end.13.3% Drink 2015-2017
16
- *Longridge Pinotage 2013 Stellenbosch*40-year-old vineyards. Rough-hewn, little bit animal on the nose, biltong and coriander. Very sweet, ripe, wild-berry fruit, leathery and old saddles and as craggy as driftwood. Touch of orange peel. Rugged and rustic and unshaven. Needs smoke-charred meat. (TC)13.5% Drink 2015-2018
16
- *Thelema, Sutherland Vineyards Pinot Noir 2012 Elgin*Pale garnet. Earthy red cherry fruit. Definitely a cool-climate freshness. Gentle and still lively. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2018
£15+ 16
- *Spier, Creative Block 3 Shiraz/Mourvèdre 2012 Coastal Region*84% Shiraz, 13% Mourvèdre, 3% Viognier. Rich and toasty on the nose. Oak dominates the palate too, and rather rubbery on the finish. Bags of flavour but a bit hard on the finish even though the tannins are smooth. (JH)14.5% Drink 2015-2019
£15+ imported by Walker and Wodehouse 16
- *Leeuwenkuil, Heritage Syrah 2012 Swartland*Very dark. Sweet, lightly oaky nose. Something quite fresh and energetic. Lots of tannin. Less obvious sweetness than the Shiraz. Polished tannins.13% Drink 2015-2019
£30 RRP 16
- *Leeuwenkuil Cinsault 2014 Swartland*Their own planting of dry-land bushvines. No irrigation. Mainly whole bunch. Some carbonic maceration. Old oak and bottled at six months. Perfumed and then dry on the end. Some hint of wild flowers. Relatively light. Quite tart and a great mouthful of confident fruit. You could serve this cellar cool. 13% Drink 2015-2016
£13.50 RRP 16
- *Rustenberg, John X Merriman 2012 Stellenbosch*49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec. Not as leafy as I expected for this wine - at least compared with some older vintages I have tasted. Much more cassis sweetness. And on the palate that herbal quality is barely there. Instead there's pure dark fruit and fine tannins. Straightforward and finishes just fresh enough. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2020
£10-£14.99 imported by Seckford Wines 16
- *Reyneke 2014 Coastal Region*51% Shiraz, 49% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark crimson. Mildly funky nose. Round and friendly with complex fully ripe fruit. Really alive, with a chalky dry finish. **GV** 14% Drink 2015-2017
£11.50 RRP 16
- *Swartland Winery, Limited Release Mourvèdre 2012 Swartland*Initial impression is oaky sweetness with vanilla and a hint of char though there's no new oak here. Like the Field Blend, juicy and pure-fruited. Tastes very youthful and hasn't really developed any of the variety's meaty character. Tannins already rounded. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2017
£9.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 16

- **Kaapzicht Pinotage 2012 Stellenbosch***Two years in oak but only 30% new.*
Savoury, brooding, deep, dark hedgerow fruit. Moreish, finely structured and just fresh enough. Avoids all the potential Pinotage pitfalls. Mouth-watering finish even though it is big and beefy. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2018
£10-£14.99 imported by Seckford Wines 16
- **Villiera, Down to Earth 2013 Stellenbosch***50% Syrah, 50% Touriga Nacional.*
Subtle chocolate-cherry aroma - totally moreish and mouth-watering. Easy and smooth without being simple. There's Syrah's dark fruit and a hint of the floral side of Touriga, all well in harmony. (JH)13.5% Drink 2015-2017
£6-£7.99 imported by Dreyfus Ashby 16
- **Longridge, Cuvée Rika Pinot Noir 2014 Elgin***No filtering, no fining. Pale crimson. Bounding-out-the-glass cherry-blossom perfume. Silky, lithe, long and leggy, wearing a corset of herbs and the finest of tannins that fit the fruit like a second skin. An undertow of beetroot deepens the palate and the nose. It reminds me more of Spätburgunder than burgundy, but that's not an insult.* (TC)13% Drink 2015-2018
16
- **Paul Cluver Pinot Noir 2013 Elgin***Sweetness, dried cherry and a slightly earthy note. Cleaner and fresher than the Bouchard Finlayson Galpin Peak just tasted. Fresh and juicy.* (JH)14% Drink 2015-2017
£10-£14.99 imported by Seckford Wines 16
- **Longridge, Driefontein Syrah 2013 Stellenbosch***Biodynamic practices, no pesticides or herbicides, natural yeast, unfiltered. Jasper Raats recommends decanting.*
Really leathery tack-room smells. A tight nub of very sweet fruit encased in a fairly tough outer layer of dry, pungent, clove spices. And there's something else, almost animal, that just stops short of glue. Very savoury. But that clear sweet note of ripe fruit prevails through to the finish. It demands attention and time, even if it doesn't waltz across the floor with you. (TC)14.5% Drink 2016-2020
16
- **Hartenberg, Gravel Hill Shiraz 2008 Stellenbosch***Single vineyard - gravel site. 18 months in new oak.*
Sweet meaty black fruit, a touch of dried-fruit sweetness but not overripe. A bit aggressive on the palate, as if firmly extracted. There's a singed-meaty quality but also a leathery texture. Very southern Rhône. Rounded but thick texture - the sort of texture I associate with oak rather than with grape tannins. (JH)14.9% Drink 2013-2018
£15+ imported by Bancroft Wines 16
- **Swartland Winery, Founders Field Blend 2015 Western Cape***70% Mourvèdre, 30% Syrah.*
Smoky dark fruit, restrained. Juicy and full of flavour, with the sweetness of fruit but freshness to balance. Light tannins. (JH)14% Drink 2015-2016
£7.99 imported by Hallgarten Druitt & Novum 15.5
- **Boutinot, Wandering Beeste Syrah 2014 Swartland***Lots of dark fruit with a touch of chocolate but that initial sweetness balanced by a more rocky and meaty quality as it opens. More meaty on the palate. Finishes abruptly.* (JH)13% Drink 2015-2016
£11-£14.99 15.5
- **Baleia Tempranillo 2014 Cape South Coast***Dark, lively crimson. Light, fresh nose with marked acidity but some sweet tobacco-leaf Tempranillo character. Pretty chewy dry finish. There is light but perceptible varietal character. Makes me realise how interesting most of the wines I taste are.*14% Drink 2015-2017
15+
- **Baleia, Sebastian 2013 Cape South Coast***40% Tempranillo, 40% Shiraz, 20% Pinot Noir.*
A little dank on the nose - were the barrels impeccably clean? Sweet start. Well balanced

blend. But it falls away on the end. As with many of the wines from this producer, it starts flashily but ends disappointingly with little follow-through. 14.7% Drink 2015-2016
15

- **Baleia Shiraz 2014 Cape South Coast**Mid crimson. Very fresh savoury nose. Some Syrah (not Shiraz) character but a little rusty nail on the end. Falls away on the finish. It's major impact is on the nose. Pretty light, though nicely packaged with labels apparently framed by a Portuguese tile or blue baroque mural. Young vines? 14% Drink 2015-2017
15
- **KWV, Abraham Perold Tributum 2012 Coastal Region**38% Pinotage, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Shiraz, 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Petit Shiraz. Aged 18 months in oak (90% French and 10% American) of which 70% was new.
Muddy, indistinct fruit. Crude. (RH)14.4% Drink 2016-2020
15
- **Goose Wines, The Goose Pinot Noir 2013 Western Cape**Translucent crimson with a fuschia rim. Weighty nose - ripe damson fruit, slightly bloody, some smoke. Markedly smoky on the palate, char grilled with high acidity. Slightly shrill cranberry fruit with some thickness of weight and tannin across the middle. A top note of orange peel. There's a little bit of a hollow in the middle, and it hasn't quite all come together. Their other two reds are much more successful. (TC)13.5% Drink 2015-2016
£18.99 Hard to Find Wines, £17.95 South Downs Cellars 15
- **Bouchard Finlayson, Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2012 Walker Bay**Surprisingly deeply coloured. And before swirling, a marked meaty character, a bit like Marmite (yeast extract). In fact that aroma remains alongside the dark-red fruit. A bit odd really. And odd on the palate. Is it the oak? Whatever it is, it detracts from the Pinot fruit and the overall effect is rather hard and I doubt it will age gracefully. Disappointing. (JH)14.5% Drink 2015-2017
£15+ imported by Seckford Wines 15
- **Leeuwenkuil Shiraz 2014 Swartland**Vibrant crimson. Warm, ripe, sweet red wine with some vitality but without real depth of fruit. 13.5% Drink 2015-2016
£9.50 RRP 15