

— PRESCIENT —

TOP 20 WINES  
SOUTH AFRICA 2020

WINEMAG.CO.ZA

ALL WINES TASTED BLIND



# RED WINES

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## INTRODUCTION

Winemag.co.za reviewed a total of 927 wines across 20 categories in its various reports sponsored by multinational financial services company Prescient over the course of the year. Each report was based on the outcome of a blind tasting of wines entered within the specific category.

A Top 10 was then announced with the release of each successive report. Now the individual best wine per category plus ratings on the 100-point quality scale for all the Top 10 wines can be revealed.

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## JUDGING PROCEDURES

The judging panel was chaired by me and further consisted of two trusted colleagues, namely Roland Peens and James Pietersen, both of Wine Cellar, Cape Town merchants and cellarers of fine wine. We tasted blind, ratings done according to the 100-point system. Final scores were awarded on the basis of discussion that involved retasting where necessary rather than relying solely on arithmetic averaging.

*Christian Eedes*

Christian Eedes  
Editor, Winemag.co.za

# BEST CAPE BORDEAUX RED BLEND



## Zorgvliet Richelle 2017

### ABOUT ZORGVLIET

This Banghoek property was acquired in 2002 by Mac van der Merwe after reviving and then selling President Steyn gold mine and it remains in the family. Bernard le Roux has been winemaker here since 2013.

### TASTING NOTE

43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Cabernet Franc, 14% Merlot and 14% Petit Verdot. Matured for 22 months in French oak, 60% new. Aromatics of red and black berries, some leafiness, tilled earth and pencil shavings. Extraordinary fruit purity, bright acidity and fine tannins make for a wonderfully focused, well-structured wine.

Winner of a new 225-litre Biodynamie barrel from Tonnellerie Sylvain.



# BEST MERLOT



## Vergelegen Reserve 2015

### ABOUT VERGELEGEN:

One of the great historic properties of the Cape, this has been owned by global mining company Anglo America since 1987. With the celebrated André van Rensburg as winemaker; the wines were highly acclaimed in the early-2000s but then faded from prominence somewhat. It has to be said, however, that a drawn-out re-planting programme to rid the vineyards of leaf-roll virus was undertaken and with this now complete, Vergelegen's glory days may well be back.

### TASTING NOTE

Matured for 16 months in French oak, 50% new. Red and black berries, fresh herbs and earth on the nose while the palate has great fruit weight, an invigorating line of acidity and fine tannins. Elegant and detailed.



## BEST NICHE RED VARIETY



### Raats Family Cabernet Franc 2017

#### ABOUT RAATS FAMILY WINES

Raats Family Wines was founded in 2000 by Bruwer Raats with the focus very much if not exclusively on Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc, grapes sourced from various Stellenbosch vineyards. Cousin Gavin Slabbert joined in 2010 and the two have ensured that this has become one of the most highly regarded labels around.

#### TASTING NOTE

Matured for 18 months in French oak, 25% new. A pretty nose with notes of red and black berries, some floral perfume, a subtle herbal note and some oak spice. The palate is wonderfully poised with dense fruit counterbalanced by fresh acidity and firm but fine tannins. Just so elegant.



# BEST PINOTAGE



## B Vintners Liberté 2018

### ABOUT BVINTNERS

B Vintners, or B Vintners Vine Exploration Co to give it its full name, is a spin-off from Raats Family Wines, which allows Bruwer Raats and Gavin Slabbert to work with varieties other than Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc and vineyards outside of Stellenbosch.

### TASTING NOTE

20% whole-bunch fermentation before maturation lasting 18 months in older French oak. An enticing nose with notes of red currant, cherry, pomegranate and musk. The palate is light-bodied and energetic – pure fruit, fresh acidity and crunchy tannins. This is precisely made, being wonderfully clean and linear.



## BEST PINOT NOIR



### Flying Cloud Sovereign of the Seas 2018

#### ABOUT FLYING CLOUD

Advocate Donald Ackerman makes wines under the garage Flying Cloud label in his spare time. Grapes for the Sovereign of the Seas 2018 were acquired from Herold Wines in Outeniqua Mountains north of the town of George, the vineyards planted in 1999 at an elevation of between 650m to 800m above sea level.

#### TASTING NOTE

20% whole-bunch fermentation. Matured for 20 months in two 300-litre barrels, one new and one third-fill. A pronounced and very attractive note of rose-like perfume as well as red berries, white pepper and other spice. The palate has succulent fruit, bright acidity and powdery tannins. Particularly pure and poised.



# BEST SHIRAZ



## Leeuwenkuil Heritage Syrah 2017

### ABOUT LEEUWENKUIL

Long-time farming couple Willie and Emma Dreyer manage vast vineyard holdings in Swartland and vicinity, a relatively small portion of the resulting wine ending up under their own label. Pieter Carstens, involved since 2008, is head winemaker.

### TASTING NOTE

Matured for 12 months in old oak. A heady nose of dark fruit, musk, lilies, fynbos and pepper while the palate is full bodied and intensely flavoured – dense fruit, bright acidity and chewy tannins. Complex and powerful.



# BEST SIGNATURE RED BLEND



## Rust en Vrede Estate 2017

### ABOUT RUST EN VREDE

Acquired by famed Springbok rugby player Jannie Engelbrecht in 1977, this Stellenbosch property is today run by his son Jean. The Estate wine has a track record dating back to 1988 – this label was originally made its 1986 debut as a Cabernet-Merlot but then winemaker Kevin Arnold (now of Waterford) saw fit to deviate from the Bordeaux model by adding Syrah into the mix two years later and that blend was to become standard.

### TASTING NOTE

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Syrah and 10% Merlot. Matured for 22 months in French oak, 40% new. Beguiling aromatics of red and black berries, some leafiness, violets, earth, vanilla and spice while the palate displays dense fruit, fresh acidity and firm but fine tannins – succulent on entry before a finish that is long and dry. Great richness without sacrificing balance.



# CAPE BORDEAUX RED BLENDS TOP 10



**ZORGVLIET – BEST IN CATEGORY**

RICHELLE 2017 | R350

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**DE GRENDDEL**

RUBAIYAT 2016 | R375

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**DORNIER**

DONATUS 2017 | R350

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**ERNIE ELS**

SIGNATURE 2015 | R740

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**ORG DE RAC**

CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT  
RESERVE 2017 | R278

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**KAAPZICHT**

STEYTLER PENTAGON 2017 | R550

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**QUEST (DU TOITSKLOOF)**

BORDEAUX STYLE 2017 | R310

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**MR DE COMPOSTELLA**

2017 | R1 500

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**WARWICK**

TRILOGY 2017 | R550

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**TOKARA**

DIRECTOR'S RESERVE RED 2017 | R400

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# MERLOT TOP 10



## VERGELEGEN – BEST IN CATEGORY

RESERVE 2015 | R260

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## EAGLES' NEST

2015 | R195

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## SHANNON VINEYARDS

MOUNT BULLET 2017 | R465

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## REMHOOGTE

ASPECT 2016 | R190

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## BOSCHENDAL

1685 2017 | R140

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## DE GRENDDEL

2017 | R250

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## GLENELLY

GLASS COLLECTION 2018 | R125

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## LE BONHEUR

THE MANOR MEANDER 2018 | R100

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## NITIDA

2018 | R115

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## VERGELEGEN

THE MISTAKE 2015 | R400

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# NICHE RED VARIETIES TOP 10



## RAATS FAMILY WINES – BEST IN CATEGORY

FAMILY CABERNET FRANC 2017 | R600

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## DE KRANS

TOURIGA NACIONAL 2018 | R115

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## PIEKENIERSKLOOF

CINSAULT 2019 | R135

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## RAATS FAMILY WINES

DOLOMITE CABERNET FRANC  
2018 | R175

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## STELLENRUST

BARREL SELECTION CABERNET FRANC  
2017 | R170

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## WELGEGUND

GRENACHE NOIR 2019 | R374

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## BEAUMONT

MOURVÈDRE 2017 | R315

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## DORNIER

TEMPRANILLO RESERVE 2016 | R225

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## OLD ROAD WINE CO.

PARDONNEZ MOI CINSAULT 2019 | R115

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## PIEKENIERSKLOOF

HEIDEDAL OLD VINE CINSAULT  
2018 | R450

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# PINOTAGE TOP 10



## B VINTNERS – BEST IN CATEGORY

LIBERTÉ 2018 | R300

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## DE GRENDEL

AMANDELBOORD 2018 | R325

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## BEYERSKLOOF

DIESEL 2018 | R850

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## KAAPZICHT

STEYTLER 2018 | R550

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## LA CAVE (WELLINGTON WINES)

2018 | R200

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## L'AVENIR

PROVENANCE 2017 | R165

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## MAN FAMILY WINES

BOSSTOK 2018 | R75

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## MÔRESON

WIDOW MAKER 2018 | R280

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## PAINTED WOLF

GUILLERMO 2019 | R230

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## LIEVLAND

BUSHVINE 2018 | R150

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# PINOT NOIR TOP 10



## FLYING CLOUD – BEST IN CATEGORY

SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS 2018 | R295

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## SHANNON VINEYARDS

ROCKVIEW RIDGE 2018 | R345

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## SUTHERLAND

2017 | R190

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## IONA

ELGIN HIGHLANDS 2018 | R290

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## KERSHAW

ELGIN CLONAL SELECTION  
2018 | R605

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## KRUGER FAMILY WINES

ELANDSKLOOF 2019 | R205

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## TESSELAARSDAL

2019 | R525

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## LOTHIAN VINEYARDS

VINEYARD SELECTION 2019 | R295

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## DE GRENDAL

OP DIE BERG 2018 | R220

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## LA VIERGE

NOIR 2016 | R230

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# SHIRAZ TOP 10



## LEEUVENKUIL – BEST IN CATEGORY

HERITAGE SYRAH 2017 | R375

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## DE GRENDDEL

ELIM 2018 | R765

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## CASA SIMELIA

SYRAH 2018 | R240

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## LAMMERSHOEK

THE INNOCENT SYRAH 2018 | R125

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## PAINTED WOLF

WALKER BAY SYRAH 2018 | R180

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## SAXENBURG

PRIVATE COLLECTION SYRAH  
2017 | R250

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## STARK-CONDÉ

STELLENBOSCH SYRAH 2017 | R205

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## VREDE EN LUST

LADY J SYRAH 2017 | R150

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## ALLÉE BLEUE

2018 | R180

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## TOKARA

RESERVE COLLECTION SYRAH  
2017 | R330

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# SIGNATURE RED BLEND TOP 10



## RUST EN VREDE – BEST IN CATEGORY

ESTATE 2017 | R450



## BOSCHENDAL

BLACK ANGUS 2017 | R320



## BOSCHENDAL

NICOLAS 2017 | R199



## DE KRANS

TRITONIA CALITZDORP BLEND  
2017 | R195



## GUARDIAN PEAK

SMG 2017 | R160



## JOOSTENBERG

BAKERMAT 2017 | R250



## ORG DE RAC

SHIRAZ CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
MERLOT 2019 | R95



## ORG DE RAC

DIE WAGHUIS RED 2018 | R158



## WARWICK

THREE CAPE LADIES 2017 | R175



## TIERHOEK

GRENACHE SYRAH MOURVÈDRE  
2019 | R120

# WINEMAG.CO.ZA

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