

PRESCIENT

TOP 20 WINES  
SOUTH AFRICA 2020

WINEMAG.CO.ZA

ALL WINES TASTED BLIND

# SWEET WINE & FORTIFIEDS

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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 MUSCADEL



## Nuy Rooi Muskaedel 2010

### ABOUT NUY:

This grower-owned winery is situated in the Nuy Valley at the foot of the Langeberg Mountains outside the town of Worcester. Cellarmaster Christo Pienaar is also the current chairman of the South African National Wine Show Association, the body that organises the SA Young Wine Show and Veritas Awards.

### TASTING NOTE

Wonderfully complex nose with top notes of potpourri and spice before boiled sweets, raisins and toffee. The palate has great balance – good depth of fruit, acidity well integrated, the spirit addition expertly handled. Complex and long.



# BEST NOBLE LATE HARVEST



## Delheim Edelspatz 2019

### ABOUT DELHEIM

The late Spatz Sperling arrived in South Africa as a 20-year-old from Germany in 1951 to join his uncle Hans Hoheisen and aunt Del and over the next 60 years, grew this farm on the Simonsberg into the popular property that it is today. Eldest son Victor Sperling and eldest daughter Nora Sperling-Thiel are currently directors while Roelof Lotriet joined as winemaker in time for the 2019 harvest.

### TASTING NOTE

From a Riesling vineyard planted in 1985. Fermented and matured for nine months in French oak. Subtle notes of flowers, citrus and spice on the nose while the palate is fine and delicate – with pure fruit and bright acidity, this has a lovely tension about it.



# BEST PORT-STYLE



## De Krans Cape Vintage Reserve 2016

### ABOUT DE KRANS

Situated in the Klein Karoo town of Calitzdorp, De Krans has belonged to the Nel family since 1890 and today is well known for its Cape Ports - the first Portuguese grape variety was planted here in 1973 by happy accident when Chris Nel, father of current owners Boets and Stroebeel Nel, intended to plant Shiraz which turned out to be Tinta Barocca!

### TASTING NOTE

74% Touriga Nacional, 18% Tinta Barocca and 8% Tinta Roriz. Matured in big vats for 20 months. Red and black fruit, tea leaf, liquorice, earth and spice on the nose while the palate shows dense fruit and firm tannins. Rich and thick textured, this is forceful stuff.



# BEST STRAW WINE



## Villa Esposto Muscat d'Alexandrie 2017

### ABOUT VILLA ESPOSTO

This is the special-project label of Klawer Wines, primarily a bulk wine producer situated in the Olifants River region. Grapes for this particular wine come from a Hanepoot vineyard planted in 1969 on the legendary Citrusdal Mountain farm of Basie van Lill.

### TASTING NOTE

Dried fruit, herbs and straw on the nose. The palate has a lovely viscosity about it yet also plenty of freshness, while the finish is long and dry with some pleasant grip. Great flavour intensity.



# SWEET WINE & FORTIFIEDS TOP 10



**DE KRANS – BEST PORT-STYLE**  
CAPE VINTAGE RESERVE 2016 | R325

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**DE KRANS**  
MUSCAT DE FRONTIGNAN  
2019 | R98

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**NUY – BEST MUSCADEL**  
ROOI MUSKADEL 2010 | R136

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**DELHEIM - BEST NOBLE LATE  
HARVEST**  
EDELSPATZ 2019 | R310

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**BOPLAAS**  
CAPE TAWNY RESERVE 1995 | R250

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**HIGHLANDS ROAD**  
NOBLE LATE HARVEST 2017 | R190

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**BOPLAAS**  
CAPE VINTAGE RESERVE 2015 | R650

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**VILLA ESPOSTO – BEST STRAW  
WINE**  
MUSCAT d'ALEXANDRIE STRAW WINE  
2017 | R190

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**DE KRANS**  
CAPE VINTAGE RESERVE 2017 | R325

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**GLENWOOD**  
NOBLESSE GRAND DUC 2017 | R320

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