

— PRESCIENT —

TOP 20 WINES
SOUTH AFRICA 2020

WINEMAG.CO.ZA

ALL WINES TASTED BLIND



WHITE WINES

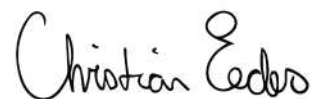
INTRODUCTION

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.

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
Editor, Winemag.co.za

BEST CAPE WHITE BLEND



Cavalli Cremello 2017

ABOUT CAVALLI:

This Stellenbosch property, incorporating horse stud, restaurant, function venue, art gallery and gardens, is owned by former Cipla Medpro CEO Jerome Smith and family. Out of a total of 110ha, approximately 30ha are planted to vineyard and Craig Barnard has been winemaker here since late-2014.

TASTING NOTE

40% Chenin Blanc, 30% Chardonnay, 25% Verdelho and 5% Viognier. Fermented in French oak barrels except for a small portion of Verdelho which was fermented in a porous egg-shaped vessel before maturation lasting 12 months. Complex aromatics of white and yellow fruit, dried flowers and a little earthiness. The palate is lean with striking acidity and a long, pithy finish. A subtle, intricate wine.



BEST CHARDONNAY



Tokara Reserve Collection 2019

ABOUT TOKARA

Prescient Winery of the Year 2020

TASTING NOTE

Fermented and matured for nine months in French oak, 36% new. A super-complex nose with notes of burnt matchstick, lemon and orange plus attractive oak. The palate is rich and intensely flavoured but equally possesses a lovely line of acidity while the finish is long and saline. Powerful without sacrificing intricacy.



BEST NICHE WHITE VARIETY



Vergelegen Reserve Semillon 2018

ABOUT VERGELEGEN

Owned by global mining company Anglo American, Vergelegen is 3 000 ha in size with 2 240ha dedicated to conservation projects and 110ha under vine.

Winemaker André van Rensburg says the property consistently delivers Semillon of unusually high acidity and low pH – the 2018 has a TA of 6.27g/l and a pH of 3.1.

TASTING NOTE

Fermented and matured for eighth months in 225-litre barrels, 35% new. Floral perfume, hay and some attractive herbal character before citrus and peach on the nose. The palate has wonderfully pure fruit with bright acidity, while there is some peppery bite to the finish. Precisely made, this has lovely energy and balance.

BEST SAUVIGNON BLANC UNWOODED



Lanzerac 2019

ABOUT LANZERAC

Originally established in 1692, this Stellenbosch property was acquired by prominent businessman Christo Wiese in 1991 who did much to establish it as the de luxe hospitality destination it is today – Wiese sold to foreign investors in 2012, who remain its current owners. Wynand Lategan has been winemaker here since 2005.

TASTING NOTE

A top note of fynbos before peach, blackcurrant and honey as well as some waxy complexity. Pure fruit is matched by a good line of acidity, the finish gently savoury. Lovely creamy texture.



BEST SAUVIGNON BLANC WOODED



Mulderbosch 2019

ABOUT MULDERBOSCH

Mulderbosch was originally founded in 1989, the early wines as made by Mike Dobrovic quickly becoming highly regarded. It was acquired by a US firm in 2011 who kept the brand but moved operations to the current location in Polkadraai. Adam Mason served as winemaker from 2011 until this year when he departed for De Morgenzon and has been replaced by Henry Kotzé, previously of Morgenster.

TASTING NOTE

One-third matured for six months in older 500-litre French oak barrels. Blackcurrant, citrus, white peach plus a pleasant herbal note on the nose. The palate has lovely weight and poise – a dense core of fruit to go with bright acidity, the finish long and saline.



BEST SAUVIGNON BLANC-SEMILLON BLEND



Tokara Director's Reserve White 2017

ABOUT TOKARA

Prescient Winery of the Year 2020

TASTING NOTE

69% Sauvignon Blanc and 31% Semillon. Fermented and matured for nine months in 400-litre barrels, 29% new. A complex nose with top notes of honey and thatch before citrus, peach and blackcurrant plus a hint of flinty reduction. The palate is full but balanced with great purity of fruit, fresh acidity and a saline finish. Has a reined-in power about it.

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



CAPE WHITE BLENDS TOP 10



CAVALLI – BEST IN CATEGORY
CREMELLO 2017 | R160



THE FLEDGE & CO.
VAGABOND 2018 | R250



VAN WYK FAMILY WINES
OLIVIA GRACE 2018 | R240



EENZAAMHEID
VIN BLANC 2019 | R115



ESSAY
CHENIN BLANC VIOGNIER ROUSSANNE
2019 | R85



LAMMERSHOEK
WHITE MYSTERIES 2017 | R170



STRANGE KOMPANJIE
THE TEA LEAF 2018 | R95



DEMORGENZON
MAESTRO WHITE 2017 | R230



JOOSTENBERG
FAIRHEAD 2019 | R175



LAMMERSHOEK
TERRAVINUM RESERVE WHITE
2016 | R190

CHARDONNAY TOP 10



TOKARA – BEST IN CATEGORY
RESERVE COLLECTION 2019 | R210



OAK VALLEY
GROENLANDBERG 2019 | R255



ALMENKERK
2018 | R240



STELLENBOSCH RESERVE
MOEDERKERK 2019 | R135



DELAIRE GRAFF
SUMMERCOURT 2019 | R185



SUTHERLAND
2018 | R165



DELAIRE GRAFF
TERRACED BLOCK RESERVE
2018 | R785



LA VIERGE
JEZEBELLE 2019 | R150



MEERLUST
2019 | R265



PAUL CLUVER
SEVEN FLAGS 2018 | R800

NICHE WHITE VARIETIES TOP 10



VERGELEGEN – BEST IN CATEGORY

RESERVE SEMILLON 2018 | R325



SHANNON VINEYARDS

TRIANGLE BLOCK SEMILLON
2018 | R250



ARCANGELI

VESTA SEMILLON 2017 | R160



BELLINGHAM

THE BERNARD SERIES WHOLE BUNCH
GRENACHE BLANC WITH VIOGNIER
2017 | R250



BENGUELA COVE

CATALINA SEMILLON 2018 | R650



OLD ROAD WINE CO.

GRAND-MÈRE SEMILLON 2017 | R535



RICKETY BRIDGE

THE PILGRIMAGE SEMILLON 2018 | R450



SHANNON VINEYARDS

TRIANGLE BLOCK SEMILLON 2017 | R250



BOSMAN

FIDES GRENACHE BLANC 2018 | R240



HIGHLANDS ROAD

SEMILLON 2018 | R220

SAUVIGNON BLANC - UNWOODED TOP 10



**LANZERAC – BEST IN
CATEGORY**

2019 | R95



VERGELEGEN

2020 | R120



BLOEMENDAL

WATERLILY 2019 | R95



CAPE POINT VINEYARDS

NOORDHOEK 2019 | R135



DURBANVILLE HILLS

COLLECTORS RESERVE THE CAPE MIST
2019 | R160



RIETVALLEI

2020 | R95



ZEVENWACHT

7EVEN 2020 | R70



GROOTE POST

2020 | R103



PAUL CLUVER

2019 | R110



WILDERBERG

TERROIRS 2019 | R240

SAUVIGNON BLANC - WOODED TOP 10



MULDERBOSCH – BEST IN CATEGORY

2019 | R100



LE BONHEUR

BLANC FUMÉ 2019 | R300



THE GIANT PERIWINKLE

BLANC FUMÉ 2019 | R200



STARK-CONDÉ

ROUND MOUNTAIN 2019 | R195



CAPE POINT VINEYARDS

RESERVE 2019 | R210



BENGUELA COVE

ESTATE 2019 | R170



DA HANEKOM FAMILIE WYNE

KLIPMUUR 2018 | R185



GROOTE POST

SEASALTER 2020 | R151



IONA

ELGIN HIGHLANDS WILD FERMENT
2019 | R195



LE BONHEUR

THE WEATHER BLOCKS 2020 | R100

SAUVIGNON BLANC-SEMILLON BLENDS TOP 10



TOKARA – BEST IN CATEGORY
DIRECTOR'S RESERVE WHITE
2017 | R280



VERGELEGEN
GVB WHITE 2018 | R440



BRUNIA
WHITE 2018 | R250



FLAGSTONE
TREATY TREE 2018 | R135



DELAIRE GRAFF
WHITE RESERVE 2018 | R425



IONA
ONE MAN BAND WHITE 2017 | R229



DURBANVILLE HILLS
THE TANGRAM 2019 | R375



CONSTANTIA GLEN
TWO 2019 | R290



LANZERAC
KELDERMEESTER VERSAMELING
BERGSTROOM 2017 | R200



SHANNON VINEYARDS
CAPALL BÀN 2017 | R295

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