

Prescient

SAUVIGNON BLANC
WOODED
REPORT 2021

WINEMAG.CO.ZA



ABOUT THE WINEMAG.CO.ZA TASTING PROGRAMME 2021



Winemag.co.za is set to produce 14 category reports over the course of the year with multinational financial services company Prescient as sponsor. Each report will be based on the outcome of a blind tasting of wines entered within a specific category.

A report includes key findings, tasting notes for the top wines, buyer's guide and scores on the 100-point quality scale for all wines entered. Upon release, producers can purchase both Top 10 and regular rating stickers – consumers are encouraged to look out for these in the retail environment.

The year culminates in a gala event when the individual best wine in each category will be celebrated. These top-performing wines will subsequently be shown at tastings in both Johannesburg and London.

JUDGING PROCEDURES

The judging panel was chaired by me and further consisted of two trusted colleagues, namely Ndabezinhle Dube, Food & Beverage Operations Manager at the President Hotel, Cape Town and James Pietersen of Wine Cellar, Cape Town merchants and cellarers of fine wine. We tasted blind, labels out of sight. Ratings were done according to the 100-point system, final scores awarded on the basis of discussion that involved retasting where necessary rather than relying solely on arithmetic averaging.

*Christian Eedes,
Editor, Winemag.co.za*

TOP 10 TASTING NOTES



Carmen Stevens
2019

R120

Total production: 6 400 bottles Abv: 14%

2% portion fermented in 100% new oak. A leesy note before citrus, peach, blackcurrant and fennel on the nose while the palate shows impressive weight and texture to go with a great line of acidity, the finish long and savoury – lots going on and really satisfying to drink.



Groot Phesantekraal
Marizanne 2021

R205

Total production: 1 711 bottles Abv: 13.26%

70% fermented and matured for six months in older barrels, 30% in clay pots. Enticing aromatics of flowers and herbs, citrus and peach while the palate is full but balanced – good fruit concentration and zesty acidity before a saline finish.



Neil Ellis
Amica 2019

R275

Total production: 6 282 bottles Abv: 13%

Spontaneously fermented and matured for nine months in 500-litre barrels, 20% new. A hint of flinty reduction before citrus, peach, fennel and some leesy character. The palate is intense but not weighty – great fruit purity and bright acidity before an extra-long finish. All of a piece.





Cape Point Vineyards Noordhoek 2020

R135

Total production: 22 300 bottles Abv: 13.33%

97% fermented in stainless steel tank, 3% in barrel. Lees contact for eight months. Top notes of flowers and dried herbs before citrus, peach and blackcurrant on the nose. The palate is well weighted with pure fruit and zippy acidity before a saline finish.



Kruger Family Wines Old Vines 2020

R225

Total production: 2 500 bottles Abv: 13%

Grapes from a Stellenbosch vineyard planted in 1987. Spontaneously fermented and matured for 10 months in older barrels. A top note of herbs before peach and blackcurrant on the nose while the palate is rich and broad with layers of flavour, the finish long and gently savoury. A seamless wine, the acidity particularly well integrated.



Le Bonheur Blanc Fumé 2020

R350

Total production: 2 574 bottles Abv: 12.85%

Matured for 12 months in lightly toasted 400-litre barrels. Dried herbs, peach and blackcurrant with an undertone of vanilla on the nose. The palate is full and round with nicely integrated acidity before a finish that's long and dry. Stylish and sophisticated with plenty of intricacy.





Benguela Cove Estate 2020

R170

Total production: 21 333 bottles Abv: 13.1%

65% fermented and matured for eight months in 500-litre barrels, 25% new and 5% vinified in ceramic eggs. Citrus, peach, fynbos and fennel plus a slight waxy character on the nose while the palate is relatively lean with vibrant acidity and a savoury finish.



Highlands Road White Reserve 2018

R350

Total production: 730 bottles Abv: 14%

Complex aromatics of citrus, blackcurrant, hay, vanilla and spice plus an intriguing leesy note while the palate shows dense fruit and punchy acidity before a savoury finish. A dramatic wine with lots of flavour intensity.



Vergelegen Reserve 2019

R280

Total production: 6 336 bottles Abv: 13.64%

25% fermented and aged in foudre. Exotic aromatics with notes of peach, blackcurrant through to granadilla and pineapple plus some waxy character while the palate shows good depth of fruit balanced by tangy acidity, the finish long and savoury.





Diemersdal The Journal 2020

R225

Total production: 5 100 bottles Abv: 14.17%

Fermented and matured for 11 months in a combination of first- and second-fill 600-litre barrels as well as clay pots. Complex aromatics including peach, apricot, a hint of elderflower, dried herbs, vanilla and oak spice while the palate is rich and broad with nicely integrated acidity and some peppery bite to the finish.



SPECIAL MENTION



Spice Route The Amos Block Perpetual Reserve Under Flor NV

R350 per 500ml bottle

Total production: 425 bottles Abv: 15%

Swartland property Klein Amokskuil has been the home of Spice Route cellar since 1997. This sherry-style wine is made from a 1965 block of Sauvignon Blanc, the oldest in South Africa. Fermented in old oak, fortified and then aged under flor. Bottling involves fractional blending of multiple vintages. Peach and apricot, a subtle herbal note plus a nutty quality on the nose while the palate is light and fresh with a saline finish.



BUYING GUIDE: CELLAR-DOOR PRICES FOR WINES RATED 90+

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
Carmen Stevens 2019	94	R120
Groot Phesantekraal Marizanne 2021	94	R205
Neil Ellis Amica 2019	94	R275
Cape Point Vineyards Noordhoek 2020	93	R100
Kruger Family Wines Old Vines 2020	93	R225
Le Bonheur Blanc Fumé 2020	93	R350
Benguela Cove Estate 2020	91	R170
Vergelegen Reserve 2019	91	R280
Highlands Road White Reserve 2018	91	R350
Diemersdal The Journal 2020	90	R225
Carmen Stevens 2021	90	R120
Jordan The Outlier 2020	90	R139
Cape Point Vineyards Reserve 2019	90	R155
Zevenwacht 360° 2020	90	R155
Du Toitskloof Old Vine Single Vineyard 2020	90	R160
Nitida Wild Child 2020	90	R160
Rietvallei Estéanna 2020	90	R185

COMPLETE SCORES A - Z

NAME	WINE OF ORIGIN	SCORE
Benguela Cove Estate 2020	Walker Bay	91
Bloemendal Suider Terras 2016	Durbanville	88
Boschendal Appellation Series Elgin 2021	Elgin	89
Cape Point Vineyards Noordhoek 2020	Cape Town	93
Cape Point Vineyards Reserve 2019	Cape Town	90
Carmen Stevens 2019	Cape Town	94
Carmen Stevens 2021	Cape Town	90
DA Hanekom Familie Wyne Klipmuur 2019	Durbanville	89
De Grendel Koetshuis 2020	Western Cape	89
Diemersdal The Journal 2020	Durbanville	90
Diemersdal Wildhorse Shoe 2020	Durbanville	88
Du Toitskloof Old Vine Single Vineyard 2020	Breedekloof	90
Groot Phesantekraal Marizanne 2021	Cape Town	94
Groote Post Seasalter 2021	Darling	89
Highlands Road White Reserve 2018	Elgin	91
Jordan The Outlier 2020	Stellenbosch	90
Kruger Family Wines Old Vines 2020	Stellenbosch	93
La Nina 2020 (Salt Rock)	Cape Town	87
Le Bonheur Blanc Fumé 2020	Stellenbosch	93
Le Bonheur The Weatherblocks 2021	Stellenbosch	89
Maastricht The Contour 2020	Cape Town	89
Neil Ellis Amica 2019	Jonkershoek Valley	94
Nitida Wild Child 2020	Durbanville Cape Town	90
Ridgeland Sandstone 2020 (Elgin Vintners)	Elgin	85
Rietvallei Estéanna 2020	Robertson	90
Tokara 2021	Western Cape	88
Vergelegen Reserve 2019	Stellenbosch	91
Vrede en Lust Artisan Range Blanc Fumé 2019	Elgin	89
Zevenwacht 360° 2020	Stellenbosch	90

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