

10-YEAR-OLD WINE  
REPORT 2023

WINEMAG.CO.ZA



# INTRODUCTION

Just how well do modern-era South African wines perform as they get older? One of the most important measures of great wine is that it should be age-worthy, that is it should become more pleasurable and more interesting to drink with time in the bottle and the annual 10-Year-Old Wine Report sets out to examine precisely this.

## JUDGING PROCEDURES

The judging panel was chaired by me and further consisted of two trusted colleagues, namely critic Michael Fridjhon and James Pietersen 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*

## KEY FINDINGS

For this year's tasting of wines a decade on from vintage, there were 62 wines from 37 producers compared to 58 wines from 31 producers when the 2012 vintage was reviewed last year.

Of the 62 entries, 17 were white, 39 were red, three were Noble Late Harvest, two were Port-style and one was a Muscadell. In general, the wines were solid rather than exciting – 43 wines (69.3% compared to 72.4% last year) rated 90 points or higher on the 100-point quality scale which is respectable enough but only nine scored 92 or higher.

The biggest sub-category was Cape Bordeaux Red Blends with 11 entries followed by Cabernet Sauvignon with 10. As has often proved the case with previous editions of the 10-Year-Old Report, Chenin Blanc and Pinotage, supposedly South Africa's signature varieties, were poorly represented with only two of the former and none of the latter.

According to producer body Vinpro, 2013 was the biggest wine crop yet seen in South Africa. The 2012 winter was colder and wetter than usual, flowering and berry set delayed but good, while harvest itself was also late.

Slow and long ripening seems to have resulted in wines that are generally lean and linear. "My Impression was that many of the wines show rather high acidities and, in the case of the reds, less resolved tannins," said critic and panellist Michael Fridjhon. "The line-up was sound but, in many cases, I wanted to see more complexity".

"There were few shockingly bad wines but also not very much that was outstanding," said fellow-panellist James Pietersen. "I'm not sure many of these wines are going to continue to improve".

Tokara Director's Reserve White 2013 is best white wine overall on 94 points - the 2011 was best in 2021 as was the 2012 last year and this wine's reputation for age-worthiness is becoming more and more entrenched.

Best red and best wine overall with a rating of 94 points (slightly higher than the Tokara by a fraction) is Ernie Els Signature 2013 and winemaker Louis Strydom wins a re-corked bottle of GS Cabernet Sauvignon 1968 sponsored by Amorim Cork South Africa.

## TOP 10 TASTING NOTES

### WHITE



#### Tokara Director's Reserve White 2013

Alc 13.63% RS 2.5g/l TA 6.1g/l pH 3.25

*71% Sauvignon Blanc, 29% Semillon. Fermented and matured for nine months in 400-litre barrels for the Sauvignon Blanc and 225-litre for the Semillon, around 27% new. Blackcurrant, white peach, sea breeze and some leesy complexity on the nose while the palate has good weight and texture and well-integrated acidity. Plenty of detail and great length to the finish.*



#### Tokara Reserve Collection Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2013

Alc 14.35% RS 2.0g/l TA 6.1g/l pH 3.26

*Fermented and matured for 11 months in French oak barrels, 36% new. Just the right amount of struck-match reduction before citrus and floral perfume while hints of oatmeal and vanilla add complexity. Big volume on the palate – good fruit purity and bright acidity before a long finish.*



#### Black Oystercatcher Sauvignon Blanc 2013

Alc 13% RS 1.3g/l TA 6.4g/l pH 3.15

*100% Sauvignon Blanc. Grapes harvested in three batches. Extended lees contact after fermentation. Struck-match reduction before citrus and blackcurrant. The palate is forceful with great depth of fruit and big acidity. Still remarkably youthful.*





## Constantia Glen Two 2013

Alc 13.5% RS 2.0g/l TA 6.9g/l pH 3.2

71% Sauvignon Blanc, 29% Semillon. Fermented and matured for six months in 600-litre barrels, 29% new. Some flinty reduction before citrus, blackcurrant, white peach and a touch of oak-derived nougat. Impressive purity of fruit and zesty acidity before a finish that's long and dry. Still tightly wound.



## RED



## Ernie Els Signature 2013

BEST WINE OVERALL

Alc 14.75% RS 3.2g/l TA 6.3g/l pH 3.78

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec and 5% Petit Verdot. Matured for 20 months in 300-litre barrels, 80% new. Complex aromatics of cassis, some leafiness, incense, oystershell and pencil shavings while the palate shows dense fruit, bright acidity and supple tannins. Succulent but equally well structured.



## De Grendel Shiraz 2013

Alc 14.5% RS 2.9g/l TA 5.6g/l pH 3.51

Grapes from Paarl and Stellenbosch. Matured for 13 months in one-third new American oak, one-third new French and one-third older French oak barrels. Red and black berries, flowers, fynbos, pepper and other spice on the nose while the palate is full but balanced – a dense core of fruit, bright acidity and crunchy tannins. Still youthful and full of personality.





## Keet First Verse 2013

Alc 14.5% RS 1.6g/l TA 5.6g/l pH 3.61

*41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Cabernet Franc, 22% Merlot, 8% Malbec and 7% Petit Verdot. Matured for 18 months in French oak barrels. Red and black berries, violets and fresh herbs plus a little earthiness on the nose. The palate is medium bodied with lovely freshness and fine tannins – elegant and still remarkably youthful.*



## Boschendal 330 2013

Alc 14% RS 3.0g/l TA 5.6g/l pH 3.55

*58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Petit Verdot and 18% Malbec. Matured for 18 months in 300-litre barrels, partially new. Aromatics of red and black berries, some leafiness, violets and pencil shavings while the palate has a nice composure about it - good fruit definition, bright acidity and tannins that are still firm.*



## FORTIFIED



## Nuy Wit Muscadel 2013

Alc 17% RS 2.26g/l TA 4.5g/l pH 3.6

*Hugely complex aromatics of sultana, citrus, dried fruit, spice and a hint of waxy character. The palate is pure and fresh – good fruit definition, the spirit addition handled very well.*



# COMPLETE SCORES A - Z

Name	Wine of Origin	Score
<b>CHARDONNAY</b>		
Almenkerk 2013	Elgin	87
Glenelly Grand Vin 2013	Stellenbosch	89
La Bri 2013	Franschhoek	88
Tokara Reserve Collection 2013	Stellenbosch	93
Waterford 2013	Stellenbosch	89
<b>CHENIN BLANC</b>		
Cederberg Five Generations 2013	Cederberg	90
Ken Forrester Old Vine Reserve 2013	Stellenbosch	90
<b>SAUVIGNON BLANC</b>		
Black Oystercatcher 2013	Elim	92
De Grendel Koetshuis 2013	Coastal Region	91
Groote Post Kapokberg 2013	Darling	89
Klein Constantia 2013	Constantia	91
Tokara Reserve Collection 2013	Elgin	90
<b>SAUVIGNON BLANC-SEMILLON BLENDS</b>		
Constantia Glen Two 2013	Constantia	92
Delaire Graff White Reserve 2013	Coastal Region	90
Tokara Director's Reserve White 2013	Stellenbosch	94
<b>SEMILLON</b>		
Franschhoek Vineyards 2013	Franschhoek	89
David Nieuwoudt Ghost Corner 2013	Elim	90
<b>BARBERA</b>		
The Drift CWG Die Kans Vate 2013	Overberg	89
The Drift Gift Horse 2013	Overberg	91
<b>CABERNET FRANC</b>		
David Finlayson Camino Africana 2013	Stellenbosch	90
<b>CABERNET SAUVIGNON</b>		
Alto 2013	Stellenbosch	90
David Finlayson GS 2013	Stellenbosch	89
Nederburg Auction Reserve Private Bin R163 2013	Paarl	90
Nederburg Two Centuries 2013	Western Cape	90
Neil Ellis Jonkershoek Valley 2013	Jonkershoek Valley	91
Tokara Reserve Collection 2013	Stellenbosch	91
Usana The Fox 2013	Stellenbosch	90
Waterford 2013	Stellenbosch	88
Zonnebloem 2013	Stellenbosch	90
Zonnebloem Limited Edition 2013	Stellenbosch	90
<b>CAPE BORDEAUX RED BLENDS</b>		
Anthonij Rupert 2013	Coastal Region	90
Boschendal 330 2013	Stellenbosch	92
De Grendel Rubaiyat 2013	Coastal Region	89
Delaire Graff Botmaskop 2013	Stellenbosch	90
Durbanville Hills The Tangram 2013	Durbanville	91
Ernie Els Signature 2013	Stellenbosch	94

Fleur du Cap Laszlo 2013	Coastal Region	90
Keet First Verse 2013	Stellenbosch	93
La Bri Affinity 2013	Franschhoek	89
Morgenster Estate Reserve 2013	Stellenbosch	90
Tokara Director's Reserve Red 2013	Stellenbosch	90
<b>MERLOT</b>		
Almenkerk 2013	Elgin	91
La Bri 2013	Franschhoek	90
<b>MOURVÈDRE</b>		
Beaumont 2013	Bot River Walker Bay	90
<b>PINOT NOIR</b>		
David Finlayson Camino Africana Reserve 2013	Stellenbosch	90
The Drift There Are Still Mysteries 2013	Overberg	89
<b>SHIRAZ</b>		
Alto 2013	Stellenbosch	86
Cederberg 2013	Cederberg	89
De Grendel 2013	Coastal Region	93
Kevin Arnold 2013	Stellenbosch	89
Tokara Reserve Collection Syrah 2013	Stellenbosch	88
<b>SIGNATURE RED BLENDS</b>		
Glenelly Estate Reserve Red 2013	Stellenbosch	91
Hout Bay Vineyards Petrus 2013	Western Cape	86
Ken Forrester Renegade 2013	Western Cape	89
Nietgegund Pro Amico 2013	Stellenbosch	88
Perdeberg The Dry Land Collection Joseph's Legacy 2013	Coastal Region	91
<b>NOBLE LATE HARVEST</b>		
Fleur du Cap 2013	Western Cape	91
Nederburg Private Bin Edelkeur 2013	Western Cape	90
Nederburg Winemaster's Reserve 2013	Western Cape	91
<b>MUSCADEL</b>		
Nuy Wit Muscadel 2013	Nuy	93
<b>PORT-STYLE FORTIFIED</b>		
Boplaas Cape Vintage Reserve 2013	Western Cape	91
De Krans Cape Vintage Reserve 2013	Calitzdorp	91



# CONTACT DETAILS

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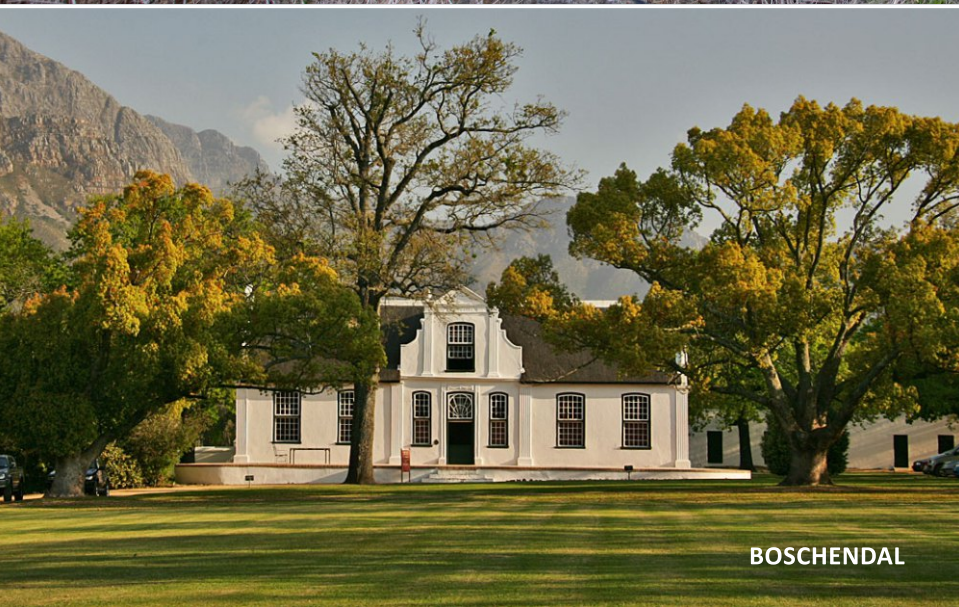




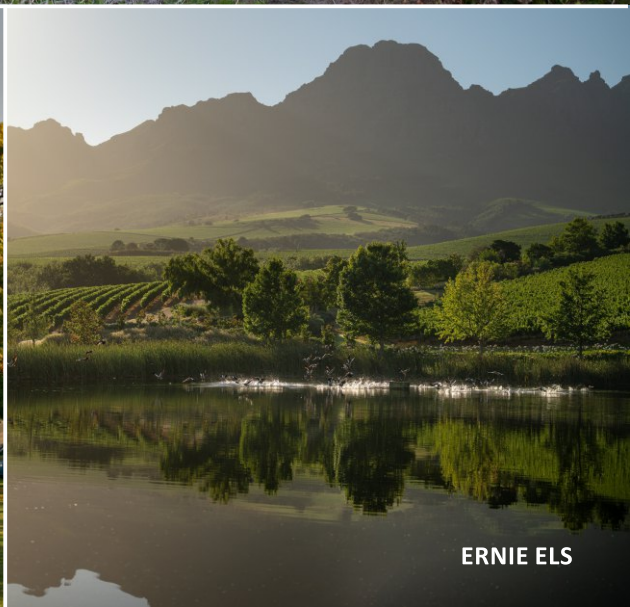
TOKARA



DE GRENDAL



BOSCHENDAL



ERNIE ELS