



NEXT GENERATION  
AWARDS 2024

— WINEMAG.CO.ZA —

# ABOUT THE FEDEX NEXT GENERATION AWARDS 2024

The modern era of South African wine, which has been underway for the last three decades or so, has seen some extraordinary quality gains but who's going to ensure that we continue to move forward?

The aim of the Next Generation Awards sponsored by FedEx Express is to identify South Africa's emerging winemaking talent. A condition of entry was that entrants should be under 35 years of age at the time of the awards ceremony on 11 June.

There were 62 entries received from 37 different individuals, with 42 (68%) rating 80-plus on the 100-point quality scale. Below are the Top 10 participants. Natasha Jacka, as the winemaker responsible for the best wine overall, receives a prize of R10,000 while Vusi Dalicuba, as runner-up, receives R2,500.

## JUDGING PROCEDURES

The judging panel was chaired by me and further consisted of Spencer Fondaumiere, chairman of the South African Sommelier Association, and wine writer Malu Lambert. 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*

## MEET THE TOP 10



### Natasha Jacka

**Age:** 30 years, six months

**Place of birth:** Welkom, Free State

**Qualification:** B.Agric (cum laude), Elsenburg, 2020

**Which winemaker, local or international, do you most admire and why?**

Before I discovered my passion for wine, I was working as a chef. Over time my interest in wine grew and I contacted Duncan Savage for advice - I so respect his welcoming, genuine and warm nature. I admire his ability both to consistently make sensational wines and build a successful business.

Duncan put me in contact with Riandri Visser just as she was stepping into the roll as head winemaker at Cape Point Vineyards and I was fortunate to join the team. She shared her wealth of knowledge with me from day one and was always extremely patient with me as I began to wrap my head around the science and art of winemaking. I also so admire her strength and humility and she has been an amazing role model for me as a woman in the wine industry.



### Alinea Sauvignon Blanc 2021

*Best Overall*

**Price:** R180

**Wine of Origin:** St Helena Bay

**Abv:** 14.03%

Fermented and matured for six months in older 600-litre barrels. Subtle and alluring aromatics – some smoky reduction before soft citrus, peach, nectarine, hay and white pepper. The palate shows excellent depth of fruit, well integrated acidity and a dry finish. Wonderfully harmonious – concentrated and yet tightly wound.



## Vusi Dalicuba

**Age:** 30 years, six months

**Place of birth:** Engcobo, Eastern Cape

**Qualification:** BTech in Agriculture, Viticulture and Oenology, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, 2015; Masters, Viticulture and Oenology, Elsenburg, 2021

**Which winemaker, local or international, do you most admire and why?**

Abrie Beeslaar for his dedication to the South African wine industry. He's great at mentoring young winemakers and encouraging you to always go beyond your limits.



## Vergenoegd Löw Cabernet Sauvignon 2022

*Runner-up*

**Price:** R280

**Wine of Origin:** Stellenbosch

**Abv:** 13.5%

Matured for 18 months in second-, third- and fourth-fill barrels. Pretty aromatics of red and black berries, violets, some leafiness, pencil shavings and oak spice. The palate is pure and focussed – excellent fruit definition, bright acidity and powdery tannins. Supple and refreshing.





## Janco de Kock

**Age:** 27 years, one month

**Place of birth:** Paarl, Western Cape

**Qualification:** BScAgric, Viticulture and Oenology,  
Stellenbosch University, 2019

**Which winemaker, local or international, do you most admire and why?**

Bartho Eksteen for igniting my passion for winemaking while I was a part of his Wijnskool Project at Boland Agricultural High School. Pieter Carstens of Leeuwenkuil, who taught me how less is more and the value of a light touch in the cellar.

I also really admire Eben Sadie – he's demonstrated to me that winemaking starts in the vineyard and I would love to grow my own grapes eventually.



## Anco 2023

**Price:** R295

**Wine of Origin:** Voor-Paardeberg

**Abv:** 13.95%

55% Syrah, 28% Grenache, 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault, 5% Carignan and 2% Alicante Bouschet. One component consisting of Syrah fermented with small percentage of stems added back; a second consisting of a co-fermentation of all six varieties. Matured for 10 months in older 500-litre barrels. Appealing aromatics of red and black berries, lavender, violet, pepper and spice. Luscious fruit, fresh acidity and fine tannins, the finish long and dry. Clean, sappy and wonderfully inviting.



## Michelle Waldeck

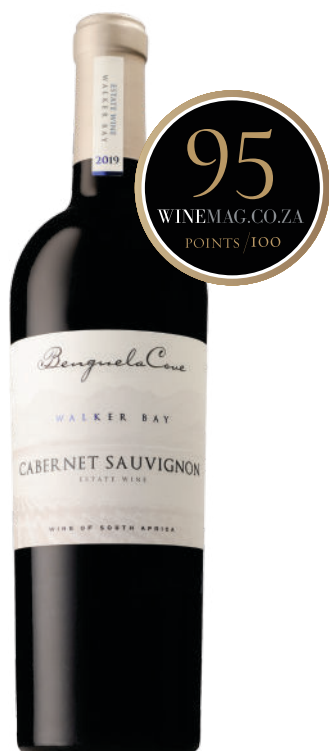
**Age:** 29 years, seven months

**Place of birth:** Kraaifontein, Western Cape

**Qualification:** BScAgric, Viticulture and Oenology,  
Stellenbosch University, 2016

**Which winemaker, local or international, do you most admire and why?**

I would without a doubt call Johann Fourie my mentor. He's taught me how important the balance between art and science in winemaking is as well as the need to be humble – winemaking is a team effort, and no one can succeed entirely alone. De Grendel's Charles Hopkins and Bartho Eksteen always remind me how important it is to bring others along.



## Benguela Cove Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2019

**Price:** R370

**Wine of Origin:** Walker Bay

**Abv:** 13.97%

Matured for 20 months in 300-litre oak barrels, 40% new. Cassis, some leafiness, earth, pencil shavings and oak spice on the nose. The palate is full and upright – dense fruit, fresh acidity and firm but not coarse tannins, the finish uncompromisingly dry.



Riandri Visser



Anzette Visser

## Riandri Visser

**Age:** 34 years, six months

**Place of birth:** Cape Town, Western Cape

**Qualification:** B. Agric (cum laude), Elsenburg, 2012

## Anzette Visser

**Age:** 30 years, eleven months

**Place of birth:** Cape Town, Western Cape

**Qualification:** Architectural Technologist

### **Which winemaker, local or international, do you most admire and why?**

Let's focus on the next generation. We've formed very close friendships with Natasha Pretorius from GlenWood and Natasha Jacka from Alinea. We worked with Natasha in Sancerre over the past two years – her dedication, her capability to remain focussed during chaos and her physical endurance are amazing. Natasha worked the 2017 harvest at Cape Point Vineyards and we were impressed with how hard-working, kind and supportive she was. She's also very detail oriented.



## Cape Point Vineyards Isliedh 2022

**Price:** R474

**Wine of Origin:** Cape Town

**Abv:** 14%

66% Sauvignon Blanc, 27% Semillon and 7% Semillon Gris. Fermented and matured for 10 months in barrel. The nose shows citrus, peach, nectarine, hay and potpourri with some intriguing leesy character in the background. The palate has a dense core of fruit, vital acidity and a dry finish. Intricate and refined.



## Hanri Ferreira

**Age:** 30 years, nine months

**Place of birth:** Oranjemund, Namibia

**Qualification:** BScAgric, Viticulture and Oenology,  
Stellenbosch University, 2015

**Which winemaker, local or international, do you most admire and why?**

Erika Obermeyer is someone that comes to mind, also having had her start at Kleine Zalze. Her work with smaller batches from specific vineyard sites is similar to what I most enjoy doing – Project Z follows much of the same ethos. Her wines are typically superbly structured while retaining elegance and freshness.



## Kleine Zalze Project Z Alvarinho 2022

**Price:** R280

**Wine of Origin:** Stellenbosch

**Abv:** 13%

Grapes from Devon Valley. Fermented and matured for six months in clay amphorae. Complex aromatics with a herbal top note preceding citrus, apple and nectarine plus some waxy character. A dense core of fruit to go with a ripping acidity (TA is 8.5g/l), the finish long and pithy.



Hanri Ferreira



## Kleine Zalze Project Z Chenin Blanc 2022

**Price:** R460

**Wine of Origin:** Stellenbosch

**Abv:** 13.77%

70% fermented in concrete egg, 30% in clay amphorae and matured for 10 months. Citrus, peach, lanolin and ginger on the nose while the palate is weighty and thick textured in the best sense – layers of flavour, well integrated acidity and a long finish. Sweet and sour combining to good effect.





## Anri Botha

**Age:** 32 years, ten months

**Place of birth:** Ceres, Western Cape

**Qualification:** BScAgric, Viticulture & Oenology, Stellenbosch University, 2013;  
MScAgric, Oenology (cum laude), Stellenbosch University, 2015

**Which winemaker, local or international, do you most admire and why?**

Abrie Beeslaar. He played a vital part in the brand building of Kanonkop and is closely associated with the production of high-quality Pinotage. He is a great mentor for younger winemakers and is not afraid to share his "secrets". He's daring, versatile and a great businessman.



## Lemberg

### The Amphora Selection Hárslevelü 2023

**Price:** R350

**Wine of Origin:** Tulbagh

**Abv:** 14.56%

Fermented and matured for nine months in a 630-litre clay amphora. Potpourri, cut apple, stone fruit, orange, ginger and some rancio on the nose. The palate is rich and flavourful, not short of verve, the finish nicely savoury.



## Jacobus van Zyl

**Age:** 34 years, nine months

**Place of birth:** Rawsonville, Western Cape

**Qualification:** BScAgric, Viticulture and Oenology,  
Stellenbosch University, 2012

**Which winemaker, local or international, do you most admire and why?**

There is no one person I admire more than any other. I've learnt a lot from many of the winemakers with whom I've had the privilege to rub shoulders. I must say that the late Duimpie Bayly had a huge influence on my career – he was a good friend and mentor, and I'll keep our conversations close to my heart.



## Jordan The Long Fuse Cabernet Sauvignon 2022

**Price:** R275

**Wine of Origin:** Stellenbosch

**Abv:** 13.5%

Age of vines is 35 to 37 years old. Matured for 18 months in barrel, partially new. Red and black berries, some leafiness, cigar box and pencil shavings on the nose. The palate is medium bodied with fresh acidity and a dry finish. Well balanced and elegant.





## Christiaan Nigrini

**Age:** 29 years, eleven months

**Place of birth:** Beaufort West, Western Cape

**Qualification:** B.Agric, Viticulture and Oenology, Elsenburg, 2016

**Which winemaker, local or international, do you most admire and why?**

Danielle le Roux, currently winemaker at Rust en Vrede. I worked as assistant winemaker to her in 2016 at Asara – she's always humble and keen to help you grow. I respect her openness to appreciate all wine styles- she taught me to be sensitive to both the old world and the new, and that you can make both classic and alternative wines.



## Welbedacht Chenin Blanc 2023

**Price:** R200

**Wine of Origin:** Groenberg

**Abv:** 12.86%

Grapes from vineyard planted in 1979. Fermentation started in tank and finished in older barrels, maturation lasting 10 months. Pretty aromatics with notes of citrus, floral perfume, hay and just a hint of leesy character. Relatively lean with plenty of drive – pure fruit and punchy acidity before a dry finish.

## ROLL OF HONOUR: WINES RATING 90+

WHITE		
Wine	Winemaker	Score
Alinea Sauvignon Blanc 2021	Natasha Jacka	95
Cape Point Isliedh 2022	Riandri and Anzette Visser	94
Kleine Zalze Project Z Alvarinho 2022	Hanri Ferreira	94
Kleine Zalze Project Z Chenin Blanc 2022	Hanri Ferreira	94
Lemberg The Amphora Selection Hárslevelü 2023	Anri Botha	94
Welbedacht Chenin Blanc 2023	Christiaan Nigrini	94
Benguela Cove Catalina Semillon 2022	Michelle Waldeck	93
Delheim Wild Ferment Chenin Blanc 2020	Nongcebo Langa	93
Driefontein Blanc 2023	Lucilia Ramos	93
Ghost Corner Wild Ferment Sauvignon Blanc 2023	Jean Nel	93
Joostenberg Die Agteros Chenin Blanc 2023	Mia Burger	93
Cape Point Vineyards Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2021	Riandri and Anzette Visser	91
K Chardonnay 2023	Kirsten Myberg	91
Off The Record Chenin Blanc 2023	Bobby Wallace	91
Sijnn White 2022	Charla Bosman	91
Tokara Premium Chardonnay 2023	Mia du Plessis	91
Welbedacht Viognier 2023	Christiaan Nigrini	91
Delheim & Hammel Staying Alive Riesling 2023	Nongcebo Langa	90
Brookdale Sixteen Field Blend 2023	Kiara Scott	90
Cape Point Vineyards Noordhoek Sauvignon Blanc 2023	Riandri and Anzette Visser	90
Lelie van Saron Chardonnay 2022	Natasha Williams	90
Longridge Chenin Blanc 2023	Lucilia Ramos	90
Painted Wolf Tear Drop Viognier 2023	Fred Loffler	90
Paul Wallace Reflection Chardonnay 2023	Bobby Wallace	90
Saxenburg Private Collection Chardonnay 2023	Brendan Smith	90
Van Niekerk Vintners Goue Rif Chardonnay 2023	Anmar van Niekerk	90
RED		
Anco 2023	Janco de Kock	95
Benguela Cove Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2019	Michelle Waldeck	95
Vergenoegd Löw Cabernet Sauvignon 2022	Vusi Dalicuba	95
Jordan The Long Fuse Cabernet Sauvignon 2022	Jacobus van Zyl	94
Jordan Cobblers Hill 2021	Jacobus van Zyl	93
Vilafonté Series C 2021	Chris de Vries	93
Colombo I Wonder If You Are Lonesome Tonight Syrah 2023	Daniel Colombo	91
Delheim Grand Reserve 2020	Nongcebo Langa	91
Great Heart Ceres Pinot Noir 2023	Gynore Hendricks	91

Lelie van Saron Syrah 2021	Natasha Williams	91
Vilafonté Series M 2021	Chris de Vries	91
Great Heart Franschhoek Cabernet Franc 2021	Gynore Hendricks	90
Nativo Tempranillo Whole Bunch 2023	Kiki Hughes	90
Off The Record Syrah 2023	Bobby Wallace	90
Sijnn Red 2020	Charla Bosman	90
Vergenoegd Löw Merlot 2022	Vusi Dalicuba	90

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