



Prescient

FUND SERVICES

SAUVIGNON BLANC
REPORT 2025

WINEMAG.CO.ZA

ABOUT THE WINEMAG.CO.ZA TASTING PROGRAMME 2025

Winemag.co.za will release a series of category reports throughout the year with Prescient Fund Services as sponsor. Each report is 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 (wines ranked by quality relative to price) and scores on the 100-point quality scale for all wines entered. Upon publication, producers can purchase both Top 10 and regular rating stickers – consumers are encouraged to look out for these in the retail environment.

JUDGING PROCEDURES

The judging panel was chaired by me and further consisted of two trusted colleagues, Ndaba Dube, director of operations at the President Hotel in Cape Town, and Jolette Steyn of Wine Cellar, Cape Town merchants and cellarers of fine wine.

Ratings were done according to the 100-point system, with final scores determined through discussion and retasting when necessary, rather than relying solely on arithmetic averages.

Christian Eedes

Editor, Winemag.co.za

KEY FINDINGS

For this year's Sauvignon Blanc Report sponsored by financial services company Prescient Fund Services, there were 78 entries from 55 producers with 33 (42%) rating 90-plus on the 100-point quality scale. In addition, there were 19 Sauv-Sem blends entered.

A weaker showing by the single-varietal wines compared to last year when 59 of the 98 entries (60%) made the crucial 90-plus threshold. Worth noting is that only eight of the wines to rate 90 or more were from the 2025 vintage, the rest all older – the wines only recently put into bottle tended to look exceptionally primary and therefore simple. Most consumers might insist on drinking their Sauvignon Blanc as young as possible, but this tasting once again points to the gains in complexity that time in bottle provides.

Conversely, many producers seem intent on moving beyond simple inoculation in stainless steel, seeking to coax greater complexity from what can be a facile variety. While the ambition is admirable, results proved uneven, with some wines turning out needlessly oxidative, broad and flat.

Premiumisation continues, however: the average price of the wines to rate 90-plus rose to R212 a bottle from R194 last year, while the Top 10 averaged R241. Offering best quality relative to price is Zevenwacht 7even 2025 (90 points, R95).

Diemersdal, as producer of the wine judged best overall, wins shipping services worth R10 000 from Aspiring Couriers.

TOP 10 TASTING NOTES

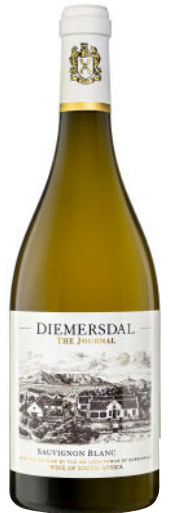


Diemersdal | Best Overall The Journal 2024

Price: R355

Total Production: 7 000 bottles Abv 13.11%

97% Sauvignon Blanc, 3% Semillon. Fermented and matured for 11 months in a combination of 500- and 600-litre barrels, partially new, and terracotta pots. Engaging aromatics of flowers, herbs, citrus, peach and a hint of reduction while the palate shows excellent clarity of fruit and driving acidity before a dry finish. Elegant and sophisticated.



The Giant Periwinkle Blanc Fumé South 2022

Price: R310

Total Production: 700 bottles Abv 12.5%

Matured in barrel for 12 months. Blackcurrant, fennel, citrus, peach and a hint of bee's wax. Full bodied with big acidity and a savoury finish. Powerful but equally balanced and vital.



Vergelegen Wild Winds 2024

Price: R155

Total Production: 100 000 bottles Abv 13.5%

Subtle aromatics of blackcurrant, peach, citrus, fynbos and some leesy complexity. The palate is rich and smooth textured, a smart line of acidity lending balance, a little grip to the finish.





Flagstone Free Run 2023

Price: R140

Total Production: 7 200 bottles Abv 13.5%

Origin of grapes: 45% Elgin, 42% Darling, 13% Stellenbosch. Blend: 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Semillon. Citrus, peach, flowers, fynbos and white pepper as well as some flinty reduction on the nose. Excellent fruit purity and crisp acidity before a savoury finish. Layered, long and still remarkably youthful.



Flagstone The Surge 2024

Price: R230

Total Production: 1 200 bottles Abv 13.5%

Floral perfume, nettle, citrus and peach on the nose while the palate has both weight and verve, the finish long and savoury. Pure and poised with some white pepper bite to the finish.



Groot Phesantekraal 2025

Price: R115

Total Production: 27 000 bottles Abv 13.54%

A hint of smoky reduction before fynbos, peach, nectarine, citrus and blackcurrant. The palate shows good fruit purity and freshness – taut but not angular, the finish long and dry.





Maastricht The Contour 2024

Price: R240

Total Production: 4 000 bottles Abv 13.64%

One-third spontaneously fermented and the balance inoculated. Matured for six months in 500-litre barrels, 20% new. Peach and apricot, orange, mushroom, earth and spice on the nose. The palate is rich and full of flavour; smooth textured with well-integrated tangy acidity, the finish gently savoury.



Koueberg Bliksembos 2023

Price: R130

Total Production: 4 000 bottles Abv 13%

Top notes of flowers, herbs and cut grass before lime, green apple and blackcurrant. Pure and energetic – good fruit expression and racy acidity before a pithy finish.



PaardenKloof Springtide 2024

Price: R210

Total Production: 8 300 bottles Abv 13.55%

Lime, white peach, flowers and fynbos on the nose. The palate is understated and linear – pure and precise with vibrant acidity and a long, dry finish.





Quoin Rock Nicobar 2024

Price: R520

Total Production: 3 800 bottles Abv 13.33%

85% Sauvignon Blanc, 15% Semillon. Matured for 10 months in barrel, 27% new. Subtle yet complex aromatics of citrus and peach alongside leesy, earthy notes. Good fruit weight and silky texture, fresh acidity adding verve, before a savoury finish. Holds your attention.



HONOURABLE MENTION

Because final ratings are determined by averaging the scores of three judges, decimal places come into play. As a result, the following wines fell just short of the Top 10 on 93 points:



Zevenwacht Z Collection 2024 | Price: R315

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

Wine	Score	Price
Diemersdal The Journal 2024	95	R355
Vergelegen Wild Winds 2024	94	R155
The Giant Periwinkle Blanc Fumé South 2022	94	R310
Groot Phesantekraal 2025	93	R115
Koueberg Bliksembos 2023	93	R130
Flagstone Free Run 2023	93	R140
PaardenKloof Springtide 2024	93	R210
Flagstone The Surge 2024	93	R230
Maastricht The Contour 2024	93	R240
Quoin Rock Nicobar 2024	93	R520
Zevenwacht Z Collection 2024	93	R315
Nitida 2025	91	R124
Bruce Jack Reserve 2024	91	R160
Eagles' Nest Constantia Reserve 2024	91	R205
De Grendel Koetshuis 2024	91	R245
Lost Boy Blanc Fumé 2024	91	R250
Cape Point Vineyards Reserve 2023	91	R268
Delaire Graff Coastal Cuvee 2024	91	R275
Groot Phesantekraal Marizanne 2024	91	R275
Iona Elgin Highlands Wild Ferment 2024	91	R294
Highlands Road White Reserve 2022	91	R350
Zevenwacht 7even 2025	90	R95
Jakkalsvlei 2025	90	R110
Tokara 2025	90	R125
Allee Bleue 2024	90	R145
Diemersdal Reserve 2025	90	R145
Groote Post 2025	90	R145
Kleine Zalze Vineyard Selection 2024	90	R163
Quoin Rock 2025	90	R165
The Pledge Our Darling 2024 (Le Grand Domaine)	90	R180
Tokara Reserve Collection Elgin 2024	90	R180
D'Aria The Songbird 2023	90	R182
Benguela Cove Estate 2024	90	R195

COMPLETE SCORES: A-Z

Name	Wine of Origin	Score
Allée Bleue 2024	Darling	90
Benguela Cove Estate 2024	Walker Bay	90
Boschendal Appellation Series Elgin 2024	Elgin	89
Bruce Jack Reserve 2022	Darling Elim	88
Bruce Jack Reserve 2024	Napier Elim	91
Cape Point Vineyards Noordhoek 2024	Cape Town	89
Cape Point Vineyards Reserve 2023	Cape Town	91
Chamonix 2025	Franschhoek	88
Christina 2024 (Van Loveren)	Robertson	88
D'Aria 2025	Durbanville	89
D'Aria The Songbird 2023	Durbanville	90
De Grendel 2025	Cape Town	89
De Grendel Koetshuis 2024	Cape West Coast	91
De Wet 2025	Keeromsberg	88
Delaire Graff Coastal Cuvée 2024	Coastal Region	91
Diemersdal Eight Rows 2024	Cape Town	90
Diemersdal Reserve 2025	Durbanville	90
Diemersdal The Journal 2023	Durbanville	88
Diemersdal The Journal 2024	Durbanville	95
Diemersdal Wild Horseshow 2024	Durbanville	89
Diemersdal Winter Ferment 2025	Durbanville	89
Du Toitskloof Old Vine Single Vineyard 2024	Breedekloof	89
Durbanville Hills 2025	Durbanville, Cape Town	88
Durbanville Hills Collectors Reserve The Cape Mist 2024	Durbanville, Cape Town	89
Eagles' Nest Constantia Reserve 2024	Constantia	91
Eikendal 2024	Elgin	88
Flagstone Free Run 2023	Cape Coast	93
Flagstone The Surge 2024	Darling	93
Grand Vin de Stellenbosch 2024 (Le Grand Domaine)	Stellenbosch	89
Groot Constantia 2024	Constantia Cape Town	89
Groot Phesantekraal 2025	Cape Town	93
Groot Phesantekraal Marizanne 2024	Cape Town	91
Groote Post 2025	Darling	90
Hasher Family Nauticus 2024	Cape South Coast	89
Highlands Road 2023	Elgin	89
Highlands Road White Reserve 2022	Elgin	91
Iona Elgin Highlands Wild Ferment 2024	Elgin	91
Jakkalsvlei 2025	Herbertsdale	90
Kleine Zalze Vineyard Selection 2024	Western Cape	90
Koueberg Bliksembos 2023	Cape South Coast	93
Kruger Family Reserve 2024 (Stellenview)	Stellenbosch	88
Land's End Cape Agulhas 2023	Cape Agulhas	89

Le Pommier 2025	Banghoek	89
Lost Boy Blanc Fumé 2024	Cape Agulhas	91
Maastricht The Contour 2024	Cape Town	93
Meinert 2023	Western Cape	87
Meinert 2024	Western Cape	88
Mellish Family Vineyards Bakenkop Blanc Fume 2024	Durbanville, Cape Town	89
Nederburg The Winemasters 2025	Coastal Region	87
Nitida 2025	Durbanville Cape Town	91
Nitida Reflection 2025	Durbanville Cape Town	89
Oak Valley Fountain of Youth 2025	Elgin	88
PaardenKloof Springtide 2024	Bot River	93
Paul Clüver 2025	Elgin	89
Quoin Rock 2025	Cape Agulhas	90
Quoin Rock Nicobar 2024	Cape Coast	93
Rikus Neethling 2025	Western Cape	89
Silkbush 2025	Breedekloof	88
The Giant Periweinkle Blanc Fumé North 2022	Cape Agulhas	88
The Giant Periwinkle Blanc Fumé South 2022	Cape Agulhas	94
The Giant Periwinkle Blanc Fumé 2023	Cape Agulhas	88
The Giant Periwinkle Wind Scorpion 2023	Cape Agulhas	89
The Pledge Our Darling 2024 (Le Grand Domaine)	Darling	90
The Pledge Our Origin 2024 (Le Grand Domaine)	Coastal Region	89
Tokara 2025	Western Cape	90
Tokara Reserve Collection Elgin 2024	Elgin	90
Vergelegen Wild Winds 2024	Stellenbosch	94
Vergenoegd Löw 2025	Stellenbosch	88
Von The Wilder 2024	Cape Town	88
Vrede en Lust Artisan Range Blanc Fumé 2021	Elgin	89
Walker Bay Vineyards 2024	Walker Bay	88
Warwick Professor Black 2025	Stellenbosch	87
Wildeberg Terroirs 2024	Stellenbosch	89
Windmeul 2025	Coastal Region	89
Zevenwacht 7even 2025	Stellenbosch	90
Zevenwacht Estate 2024	Stellenbosch	89
Zevenwacht Z Collection 2024	Polkadraai Hills	93
Zorgvliet Single Vineyard 2024	Banghoek	90



GROOT PHESANTEKRAAL



FLAGSTONE



MAASTRICHT



VERGELEGEN



QUOIN ROCK



PAARDENKLOOF



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SAUVIGNON BLANC
— SEMILLON
REPORT 2025

WINEMAG.CO.ZA

CONSTANTIA WINE ROUTE

TOP FOUR TASTING NOTES



Wade Bales | Best Overall Regional Series Constantia White 2023

Price: R250

Total Production: 2 700 bottles Abv 13.33%

61% Sauvignon Blanc and 39% Semillon, comprising seven parcels sourced from various Constantia properties. A nose of flowers, herbs, hay, citrus, and peach precedes a rich, full palate with creamy texture, layered flavour, and well-integrated acidity. Balanced, pure, and vibrant.



Constantia Royale Don's Reserve 2023

Price: R325

Total Production: 1 400 bottles Abv 13.89%

67% Sauvignon Blanc, 33% Semillon. Matured for 10 months in 500-litre barrel, partially new. Floral perfume, herbs, citrus and peach plus a slight waxy note on the nose while the palate is medium bodied and tightly wound – good fruit expression and fresh acidity before a saline finish.



Creation Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2024

Price: R235

Total Production: 5 000 bottles Abv 13.5%

80% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Semillon. Fermented and matured for 10 months in barrels ranging in size from 320 to 500 litres, with 20% new oak used for the Sauvignon Blanc. Flowers, herbs, citrus, peach, blackcurrant and some flinty reduction. The palate has good weight and texture with vibrant acidity, the finish particularly long and dry.





Constantia Uitsig Natura Vista 2024

Price: R205

Total Production: 3 200 bottles Abv 13.5%

60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Semillon. Fermented in concrete tanks and matured for nine months in older barrels. Hay, herbs, floral perfume, citrus, and peach on the nose, while the palate is elegant, lean and unshowy with vibrant acidity and a savoury finish.



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

Wine	Score	Price
Wade Bales Regional Series Constantia White 2023	95	R250
Creation Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2024	94	R235
Constantia Royale Don's Reserve 2023	94	R325
Constantia Uitsig Natura Vista 2024	93	R205
Durbanville Hills The Tangram White 2023	91	R270
Tokara Director's Reserve White 2022	91	R360
Groot Constantia Gouverneurs Reserve 2024	91	R550
Delaire Graff White Reserve 2023	91	R660
Coterie Semillon & Sauvignon Blanc 2024 (Wildeberg)	90	R210
Walker Bay Vineyards Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2023	90	R215
Zorgvliet Simone' 2023	90	R250
Trizanne Signature Wines Elim Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon 2022	90	R350
Vergelegen Estate White 2023	90	R375
Cape Point Vineyards Isliedh 2024	90	R513

COMPLETE SCORES: A-Z

Name	Wine of Origin	Score
Bizoe Henriëta 2024	Western Cape	89
Boschendal Suzanne 2024	Stellenbosch Elgin	89
Brunia White 2023	Sondagskloof	89
Cape Point Vineyards Isliedh 2024	Cape Town	90
Chamonix Premier White Reserve 2022	Franschhoek	89
Constantia Royale Don's Reserve 2023	Constantia	94
Constantia Uitsig Natura Vista 2024	Constantia	93
Coterie Semillon & Sauvignon Blanc 2024 (Wildeberg)	Coastal Region	90
Creation Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2024	Walker Bay	94
Delaire Graff White Reserve 2023	Coastal Region	91
Durbanville Hills The Tangram White 2023	Durbanville Cape Town	91
Groot Constantia Gouverneurs Reserve 2024	Constantia Cape Town	91
Meinert La Berry White 2024	Western Cape	89
Tokara Director's Reserve White	Stellenbosch	91
Trizanne Signature Wines Elim Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2022	Elim	90
Vergelegen Estate White 2024	Stellenbosch	90
Wade Bales Regional Series Constantia White 2023	Constantia	95
Walker Bay Vineyards Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2023	Walker Bay	90
Zorgvliet Simoné 2023	Banghoek	90



CREATION



CONSTANTIA UITSIG



WADE BALES



CONSTANTIA ROYALE

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