



CAP CLASSIQUE
REPORT 2025

WINEMAG.CO.ZA

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ABOUT THE CAP CLASSIQUE REPORT 2025

Winemag.co.za publishes regular category reports, and the Cap Classique Report is devoted to South Africa's traditional-method sparkling wines, produced via a secondary fermentation in bottle.

This document contains key findings, tasting notes for the top wines, a buyer's guide ranking wines by quality relative to price, and scores on the 100-point quality scale for all wines entered.

Upon publication, producers may purchase rating stickers, which consumers are encouraged to look for in stores.

JUDGING PROCEDURES

The judging panel was chaired by me and further consisted of Spencer Foundamiere, wine entrepreneur and ASI Diploma Sommelier, and Jolette Steyn-Prior 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*

KEY FINDINGS

For this year's Cap Classique Report, 38 entries from 27 producers were assessed, with 20 (53%) achieving 90 points or higher on the 100-point scale.

The top five wines are predominantly, or entirely, Chardonnay-based. While the legal minimum lees maturation is 12 months, the average among these top performers was 31.4 months, highlighting the importance of extended lees contact for yeast-derived complexity and a refined mousse.

That said, purity of fruit and brisk acidity remains crucial, as the panel rewarded wines showing vitality, whereas broader, overly aldehydic examples were less successful.

The average price of the 20 wines to rate 90-plus is R356 a bottle and of the Top Five is R345. Offering the best quality relative to price is Miss Molly Bubbly Brut NV with a rating of 91 and selling for R1 409 per 12-bottle case (R117,42 per bottle).

TOP 5 TASTING NOTES



Miss Molly Blanc de Blancs 2021

Price: R270

Total Production: 1 270 bottles Abv 12%

100% Chardonnay. Base juice vinified in a combination of oak, concrete and stainless-steel tank. Matured for 36 months. A hint of reduction before citrus, apple and a touch of yeasty complexity on the nose while the palate is lean with racy acidity and a fine mousse, the finish long and dry.



Alexander Vineyards Brut NV (Cape Point Vineyards)

Price: R340

Total Production: 2 500 bottles Abv 12.6%

50% Chardonnay, 50% Pinot Noir. 10% of the Chardonnay matured in oak for six months. Matured on the lees for 16 months. Expressive aromatics of peach and apple with subtle yeasty complexity. The palate is rich and the mousse creamy, but the acidity lends focus and drive while the finish is dry. Intricate and assured.



Benguela Cove Joie de Vivre Brut 2022

Price: R440

Total Production: 2 960 bottles Abv 12%

70% Chardonnay, 30% Pinot Noir. 25% fermented in barrel. Matured on the lees for 36 months. Citrus, apple, peach, some flinty reduction and a hint of yeasty complexity on the nose. The palate is lean – clean fruit, big acidity and a fine mousse, the finish long and dry.





Groot Phesantekraal Blanc de Blanc 2023

Price: R270

Total Production: 6 500 bottles Abv 11.38%

100% Chardonnay. 80% of base juice vinified in stainless-steel tank, 20% in new barrels. Matured for 25 months. The nose shows citrus, a touch of yeasty complexity and a hint of toast. The palate is rich yet balanced – layers of flavour, bright acidity and a creamy mousse.



Klein Roosboom My Way Brut 2021

Price: R370

Total Production: 3 270 bottles Abv 11.5%

90% Chardonnay, 10% Pinot Noir. Primary fermentation in a combination of stainless-steel tank and 400-litre barrels. Matured on the lees for 43 months. The nose shows citrus, apple, blossom, a touch of reduction and a hint of brioche. The palate is precise and energetic – linear and taut, with brisk acidity, a fine mousse and a bone-dry finish.



BUYING GUIDE: RETAIL PRICES FOR WINES RATED 90+

Wine	Score	Price
Miss Molly Blanc de Blancs 2021	93	R270
Groot Pheasantekraal Blanc de Blanc 2023	92	R306
Alexander Vineyards Brut NV (Cape Point Vineyards)	92	R340
Klein Roosboom My Way Brut 2021	92	R370
Benguela Cove Joie de Vivre Brut 2022	92	R440
Miss Molly Bubbly Brut NV	91	R117.42
De Wet Cravate 2023	91	R169
L'Ormarins Brut Classique Rosé NV	91	R210
De Grendel Brut 2023	91	R275
Grand Vin de Stellenbosch MCC Brut 2022 (Le Grand Domaine)	91	R320
Grand Vin de Stellenbosch MCC Brut Rosé 2022 (Le Grand Domaine)	91	R320
Genevieve Brut Blanc de Blancs 2021	91	R325
Alexander Vineyards Brut Rosé NV (Cape Point Vineyards)	91	R350
Boschendal Mountain Rose Vintage Brut Rosé 2020	91	R750
Pierre Jourdan Brut NV	90	R190
Diemersdal Blanc de Blanc Brut NV	90	R250
Wildeberg Météorique MCC 2023	90	R335
Klein Roosboom My Way Brut Rosé 2021	90	R375
Lord Jackal Pinot Noir MCC 2022 (Jakkalsvlei)	90	R600
Babylonstorn Sprankel 2020	90	R810

COMPLETE SCORES: A-Z

Name	Wine of Origin	Score
Alexander Vineyards Brut NV (Cape Point Vineyards)	Stellenbosch	92
Alexander Vineyards Brut Rosé NV (Cape Point Vineyards)	Stellenbosch	91
Babylonstorn Sprankel 2019	Simonsberg-Paarl	89
Babylonstorn Sprankel 2020	Simonsberg-Paarl	90
Benguela Cove Joie de Vivre Brut 2022	Walker Bay	92
Boschendal Grand Cuvée Vintage Brut 2020	Elgin	89
Boschendal Mountain Rose Vintage Brut Rosé 2020	Coastal Region	91
Chamonix Blanc De Blancs 2022	Franschhoek	89
Constantia Uitsig Ex Oppido XII Mensis NV	Western Cape	89
De Grendel Brut 2023	Cape Town	91
De Grendel Proposal Hill Brut Rosé 2023	Cape Town	89
De Wet Cravate 2023	Worcester	91
Diemersdal Blanc de Blanc Brut NV	Durbanville	90
Durbanville Hills Méthode Cap Classique Blanc de Blancs 2022	Durbanville, Cape Town	89
Eikendal Méthode Cap Classique 2023	Stellenbosch	89
Fairview Charles Back Brut 2022	Paarl	88
Genevieve Brut Blanc de Blancs 2021	Cape South Coast	91
Grand Vin de Stellenbosch MCC Brut 2022 (Le Grand Domaine)	Stellenbosch	91
Grand Vin de Stellenbosch MCC Brut Rosé 2022 (Le Grand Domaine)	Stellenbosch	91
Groot Pheasantekraal Blanc de Blanc 2023	Durbanville	92
Jason's Hill Arrois 2019	Breedekloof	87
Klein Roosboom My Way Brut 2021	Durbanville, Cape Town	92
Klein Roosboom My Way Brut Rosé 2021	Durbanville, Cape Town	90
Koelenbosch Chardonnay MCC 2023	Stellenbosch	85
Koelenbosch Pinotage Rosé MCC 2022	Stellenbosch	86
Lord Jackal Pinot Noir MCC 2022 (Jakkalsvlei)	Klein Karoo	90
L'Ormarins Brut Classique NV	Western Cape	89
L'Ormarins Brut Classique Rosé NV	Western Cape	91
Miss Molly Blanc de Blancs 2021	Franschhoek	93
Miss Molly Bubbly Brut NV	Franschhoek	91
Org De Rac La Verne Cuvée Brut 2023	Swartland	88
Peter Falke Noelina 2019	Stellenbosch	89
Pierre Jourdan Belle Rose NV	Western Cape	89
Pierre Jordan Blanc de Blanc 2020	Franschhoek	89
Pierre Jourdan Brut NV	Western Cape	90
Vinevenom Serenade 2020	Swartland	87
Wildeberg Météorique MCC 2023	Franschhoek	90
Zorgvliet Brut 2024	Banghoek	89



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