



ROSÉ
REPORT 2025

WINEMAG.CO.ZA

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ABOUT THE ROSÉ REPORT 2025

All types of rosé are eligible for this report, “rosé” defined as a wine incorporating some colour but not enough to qualify it as a red wine. Production methods allowed include: 1) direct pressing of red wine grapes; 2) short maceration of red wine grapes; 3) saignée – bleeding off of juice; 3) blending of juice from red and white wine grapes; and 4) white wine aged in vessels previously used to mature red wine. Wines labelled as “Blanc de Noir” are automatically allowed.

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
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KEY FINDINGS

Is there a glass ceiling to how good local rosé can be? For this year's Rosé Report, 40 entries were received from 38 producers, with 27 wines (67.5%) rating 90 plus on the 100-point scale, clear evidence that most cellars now handle the category with competence. Yet only three wines rose above 91: Waterford Rose-Mary 2025 on 92, and both Groot Pheasantekraal 2025 and Vinevenom Shining NV No. 4 on 93. Genuine standouts, it seems, remain scarce.

Rosé generally makes for pleasant everyday drinking, but achieving true complexity, both organoleptic and textural, proves elusive. Some wines, in the quest for elegance, veer into leanness with overly sharp acidity; others still rely on residual sugar for broad appeal, a tactic that inevitably compromises seriousness.

The three top performers, however, provide a useful indication of what success looks like. First, they each possess fruit clarity coupled with complementary complexity, showing bright, clean red-fruit expression anchored by lower-toned notes (spice, earthiness or oxidative nuance) that add character without dulling freshness.

They also share a sense of balance and texture. They combine proper fruit weight with integrated acidity and a gentle tannic or phenolic grip, giving structure, length and a sense of intention beyond simple refreshment.

Finally, each wine reflects distinctive winemaking executed with precision. Whether through the single-varietal purity of Groot Pheasantekraal Syrah, the oxidative multi-vintage blending behind Vinevenom Shining, or the finely judged multi-varietal composition of Waterford Rose-Mary, all three follow a clear stylistic vision and deliver it with confidence.

TOP 3 TASTING NOTES



Groot Phesantekraal 2025

Price: R110

Total Production: 15 000 bottles Abv 12.37%

100% Syrah. The nose shows strawberry, orange, a hint of rose and spice. Good fruit density and bright acidity, and some pleasant tannic grip. Flavourful, balanced and long.



Vinevenom Shining NV No. 4

Price: R200

Total Production: 2 200 bottles Abv 13.12%

50% Carignan, 20% Cinsault, 20% Grenache, 10% Touriga Nacional. Fourth release, a blend of the 2022 and 2023 vintages. Made in an oxidative style with some light flor ageing and a maderised component. Red berries, orange, a slight nuttiness, earth and spice on the nose while the palate shows dense fruit and a creamy texture, the acidity well integrated and the finish gently savoury.



Waterford Rose-Mary 2025

Price: R166

Total Production: 98 000 bottles Abv 12.5%

35% Shiraz, 20% Tempranillo, 13% Malbec, 10% Grenache, 9% Merlot, 7% Cinsaut, 4% Mourvèdre, 1% Sangiovese, 1% Barbera. Skin contact limited to three hours. Pretty aromatics, a top note of flowers before cherry and strawberry. The palate is harmonious with good fruit concentration, well integrated acidity, the finish lightly grippy.



BUYING GUIDE: RETAIL PRICES FOR WINES RATED 90+

Wine	Score	Price
Groot Pheasantekraal 2025	93	R110
Vinevenom Shining NV No. 4	93	R200
Waterford Rose-Mary 2025	92	R166
Wild House Rose 2025 (Wildeberg)	91	R90
Durbanville Hills Merlot 2025	91	R95
Warwick The First Lady Dry 2025	91	R120
Delheim Pinotage 2025	91	R125
Kloovenburg Village 2025	91	R130
Fairview Rose Quartz 2025	91	R145
Babylonstoren Mourvèdre 2025	91	R185
Grand Vin de Stellenbosch 2025 (Le Grand Domaine)	91	R195
Jean Roi Cap Provincial 2025	91	R280
Du Toitskloof Pinotage 2025	90	R80
Goats do Roam Dry Rosé 2025 (Fairview)	90	R83
Boplaas Shiraz 2025	90	R85
De Wet Vintage Mashup Chardonnay Pinot Noir 2024	90	R89
Koelenbosch Dry Pinotage 2025	90	R90
Alphen Glow 2025	90	R95
Org De Rac 2025	90	R115
Hazendal Pinot Noir 2025	90	R125
Ernie Els Big Easy Cabernet Sauvignon 2025	90	R125
Le Sueur Grenache 2024	90	R125
Vrede en Lust Jess 2025	90	R130
Hermanuspietersfontein Bloos 2025	90	R135
Chamonix Pinot Noir 2025	90	R135
Coterie by Wildeberg Cinsault 2025	90	R210
La Petite Ferme Grenache Noir 2025	90	R225

COMPLETE SCORES: A-Z

Name	Wine of Origin	Score
Allée Bleue Shiraz 2025	Franschhoek	87
Alphen Glow 2025	Coastal Region	90
Babylonstoren Mourvèdre 2025	Western Cape	91
Blaauwklippen The House of Zin 2025	Stellenbosch	88
Boplaas Limited Release Shiraz 2025	Calitzdorp	90
Chamonix Pinot Noir 2025	Stellenbosch	90
Coterie by Wildeberg Cinsault 2025	Coastal Region	90
De Grendel 2025	Coastal Region	89
De Wet Vintage Mashup Chardonnay Pinot Noir 2024	Worcester	90
Delaire Graff Cabernet Franc 2025	Stellenbosch	89
Delheim Pinotage 2025	Coastal Region	91
Du Toitskloof Pinotage 2025	Western Cape	90
Durbanville Hills Merlot 2025	Durbanville, Cape Town	91
Eikendal Grenache Mourvèdre 2025	Stellenbosch	88
Ernie Els Big Easy Cabernet Sauvignon 2025	Stellenbosch	90
Fairview Rose Quartz 2025	Coastal Region	91
Glenelly Le Rosé de May 2025	Stellenbosch	89
Goats do Roam Dry Rosé 2025 (Fairview)	Coastal Region	90
Grand Vin de Stellenbosch 2025 (Le Grand Domaine)	Stellenbosch	91
Groot Pheasantekraal 2025	Cape Town	93
Hazendal Pinot Noir 2025	Bottelary	90
Hermanuspietersfontein Bloos 2025	Sondagskloof	90
Holden Manz Hiro 2025	Western Cape	89
Jean Roi Cap Provincial 2025	Riebeekrivier	91
Kloovenburg Village 2025	Swartland	91
Koelenbosch Dry Pinotage 2025	Stellenbosch	90
La Petite Ferme Grenache Noir 2025	Franschhoek	90
Le Sueur Grenache 2024	Klein Karoo	90
Nederburg The Winemasters Grenache Carignan 2024	Paarl	89
Org De Rac 2025	Swartland	90
Peter Falke Blanc de Noir 2025	Stellenbosch	87
Stellenzicht Thunderstone Rosé 2025	Stellenbosch	88
Tamboerskloof Katharien 2025 (Kleinood)	Stellenbosch	89
Villa Esposto 2025	Olifants River	87
Vinevenom Shining NV	Swartland	93
Vrede en Lust Jess 2025	Western Cape	90
Warwick The First Lady Dry 2025	Western Cape	91
Waterford Rose-Mary 2025	Stellenbosch	92
Wild House Rose 2025 (Wildeberg)	Western Cape	91
Zorgvliet Cabernet Franc 2025	Banghoek	89



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