

# RD RADFORD DALE

*Platter's*  
by Diners Club  
INTERNATIONAL

## PLATTER SOUTH AFRICAN WINE GUIDE

### RED WINE OF THE YEAR 2017

Radford Dale Black Rock 2014

#### 5 STARS

Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2020

Radford Dale Black Rock 2019

Radford Dale Black Rock 2015

Radford Dale Black Rock 2014

Radford Dale Black Rock 2013

Radford Dale Gravity 2005



#### 4.5 STARS

Radford Dale Organic Revelation Semillon 2022

Radford Dale Organic Freedom Pinot Noir 2022

Radford Dale Organic Higher Purpose Cabernet Franc 2022

Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc  
2020, 2019, 2018 & 2017

Radford Dale Chardonnay 2020, 2019 & 2018

Radford Dale Gravity 2020, 2015, 2013 & 2011

Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2019 & 2018

Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2021, 2017 & 2016

Radford Dale Black Rock 2018 & 2017

Radford Dale Nudity Syrah 2019, 2017 & No.16

Radford Dale Syrah 2021, 2019, 2017 & 2015

#### 4 STARS

##### *Radford Dale*

Radford Dale Organic Touchstone Chardonnay 2022

Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2019 & 2018

Radford Dale The Revelation Chenin Blanc 2018

Radford Dale Cinsault 2019

Radford Dale Grenache 2020 & 2019

Radford Dale Nudity Syrah 2018

##### *Radford Dale Thirst*

Radford Dale Thirst Clairette Blanche 2022, 2021 & 2020

Radford Dale Thirst Gamay Noir 2020 & 2019

Radford Dale Thirst Cinsault 2020 & 2019

##### *Radford Dale Vinum*

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 & 2018

Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2022 & 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2022 & 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2022 & 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2022 & 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2022, 2021, 2020 & 2019

ALL ABOUT INDIVIDUALITY



RADFORD DALE

*Jancis Robinson*  
JancisRobinson.com

**TAMLYN CURRIN**

**17.5 POINTS**

Radford Dale Organic Touchstone Chardonnay 2022  
Radford Dale Organic Revelation Semillon 2022  
Radford Dale Organic Higher Purpose Cabernet Franc 2022  
Radford Dale Organic Freedom Pinot Noir 2022

**JULIA HARDING MW**

**17 POINTS**

***Radford Dale***

Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2017  
Radford Dale Syrah 2017

***Radford Dale Vinum***

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2019

**16.5 POINTS**

***Radford Dale***

Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2019  
Radford Dale Chardonnay 2019  
Radford Dale Chardonnay 2017  
Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2016  
Radford Dale Chardonnay 2017  
Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2016  
Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2019  
Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2019, 2018 & 2017

***Radford Dale Thirst***

Radford Dale Thirst Clairette Blanche 2019

***Radford Dale Vinum***

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021 & 2017  
Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2021  
Radford Dale Vinum Gamy Noir 2021  
Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2021  
Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2021 & 2019 & 2018

ALL ABOUT INDIVIDUALITY



**RADFORD DALE**  
**Tim Atkin<sup>MW</sup>**

**96 POINTS**

**ONE OF THE WINES OF THE YEAR**

Radford Dale The Renaissance of Chenin Blanc 2017

**95 POINTS**

**ONE OF THE WINES OF THE YEAR**

Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2019 & 2016

**94 POINTS**

Radford Dale Chardonnay 2021, 2018 & 2017

Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2018

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2015

**93 POINTS**

Radford Dale Organic Higher Purpose Cabernet Franc  
2022

Radford Dale Organic Freedom Pinot Noir 2021

Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2022, 2020  
& 2018

Radford Dale The Revelation Chenin Blanc 2019 & 2018  
Radford Dale Chardonnay 2019

Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2019 & 2017

Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2021

**93 POINTS**

Radford Dale Syrah 2020

Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2021

Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2020

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2017

**92 POINTS**

Radford Dale Chardonnay 2020

Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2020

Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2021 &  
2016

Radford Dale Black Rock 2020

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2022 &  
2019

Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2022

Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Gamy Noir 2022

**91 POINTS**

Radford Dale Organic Revelation Semillon 2022

Radford Dale Organic Touchstone Chardonnay 2022

Radford Dale Organic Chenin Blanc 2020

Radford Dale Syrah 2017 & 2015

Radford Dale Grenache 2019

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021 & 2020

Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2022, 2021 & 2019

Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2021

**90 POINTS**

Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2020 & 2019  
& 2018

Radford Dale Black Rock 2017

Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2017

Radford Dale Grenache 2020

Radford Dale Thirst Clairette Blanche 2020

Radford Dale Thirst Gamay Noir 2020 & 2019

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2020 & 2018

**ALL ABOUT INDIVIDUALITY**



**RD**  
RADFORD DALE  
**Decanter**

**PIWOSA Feature November 2023**

**Radford Dale Organic Touchstone Chardonnay, Elgin, 2022**

If you like a sweeter, riper style of Chardonnay, this isn't for you. It's taut, linear and restrained; not introverted exactly – it's drinking nicely now – but certainly self-possessed. The fruit is white and edgy for the Cape – think cool pears and apples, not peaches – with a gleaming, pure needle-point of acidity shining through its flinty heart.

**95 points**

**Renaissance Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, 2010**

The RD team are big fans of Chenin on granite, and this wine – from 50-year-old vines on the dolomitic Polkadraai Hills – shows why. It's a multi-layered offering of fresh Mirabelle plums, quince and apple compote, beautifully balanced by Chenin's natural broad-mouth acidity. Texturally, it's oily and waxy, with a taut saltiness – almost smokiness – in behind.

**94 points**

**The Antidote Gamay Noir, Stellenbosch, 2021**

This wine is so-called because it's the antithesis of big, heavily-fruited wines. Certainly, there's an attractive brambly mid-weight fruit character to this – baskets of red fruit with gentle tannins and a natural salivating acidity. If Gamay loves granite in Beaujolais, then why not in the Cape, too? On this evidence we'll see more of it.

**92 points**

**Frankenstein Pinotage, Stellenbosch, 2020**

Winemaker Jacques de Klerk says that to get good Pinotage you need to treat it gently. This is whole-berry fermented at cooler temperatures and barely oaked in old 500-litre barrels. The result is a joyful, pure, juicy explosion of summer: black strawberries and currant bushes with zest and vibrancy. Bright, crunchy and chillable for late summer or early autumn.

**90 points**

**Syrah: The Most Exciting Grape in the Cape  
95+ Points**

Radford Dale Nudity Syrah 2013

**94 Points**

Radford Dale Syrah 2012

**91 Points**

Radford Dale Syrah 2017

**90 Points**

Radford Dale Nudity Syrah 2019

**94 Points**

Radford Dale The Renaissance of Chenin Blanc 2017  
Vinum Chenin Blanc 2015

**93 Points**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2018  
Radford Dale The Renaissance of Chenin Blanc 2015  
Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2014

**91 Points**

Radford Dale Thirst Gamay Noir 2014

**90 Points**

Radford Dale Chardonnay 2015  
Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2017

**ALL ABOUT INDIVIDUALITY**

## Jamie Goode – The Wine Anorak

### South African Gamay almost became extinct, but there's hope: two from Radford Dale

#### Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2019 Stellenbosch

12.5% alcohol. Supple and elegant with fine red cherry and berry fruits, showing some silkiness and also bright acidity. There's a lot of freshness, but also some richer berry fruit character and lovely elegance and refinement. Polished, in the best sense of the term, but retaining vitality. A lovely expression of Gamay. **93 Points**

#### Radford Dale Thirst Gamay Noir 2020 Stellenbosch

12% alcohol. Naturally made, unfinned and unfiltered. This is light, fresh and supple with juicy cherry fruit, a touch of beetroot and pomegranate, and some strawberry sweetness. This is light and juicy with some fine herby notes, and it's quite ethereal in its naked purity. Has a touch of sour cherry on the finish. **90 Points**

#### 94 Points

Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2022

#### 93 Points

Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2022  
Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2022  
Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2022  
Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021  
Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2021

#### 93 Points

Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2021  
Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2021  
Radford Dale The Renaissance of Chenin  
Blanc 2015

#### 92 Points

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2022  
Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2021

#### 91 Points

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2022  
Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2021  
Radford Dale Thirst Cinsault 2015

#### 90 Points

Radford Dale Thirst Gamay Noir 2015

# WINEMAG.CO.ZA

Christian Eedes

## 96 Points

Radford Dale The Revelation Chenin Blanc 2018

## 95 Points

Radford Dale Organic Chenin Blanc 2020

Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2016

## 94 Points

Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2022

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2018

Radford Dale Syrah 2017

## 93 Points

Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2022

Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2018

## 92 Points

Radford Dale Grenache 2020

Radford Dale Nudity Syrah 2018

Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2020 & 2018

Radford Dale Black Rock 2017

## 91 Points

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2020

## 90 Points

Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2022

Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2019

Radford Dale Gravity 2013

## 89 Points

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2020

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2019

Christian Eedes

**94 Points**

## **Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2022**

Peach, lemon, naartjie and some leesy complexity on the nose while the palate appears slightly less angular than some previous vintages – good fruit weight matched by tangy acidity, the finish gently savoury and faintly pithy in texture.

Alcohol: 12%

**93 Points**

## **Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2022**

Red and black cherry plus a hint of floral perfume on the nose. The palate has nice clarity and weight of fruit, well integrated acidity and powdery tannins. Alcohol is 13%

**90 Points**

## **Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2021**

The nose shows red and black cherry, violets, herbs and a wild, slightly meaty quality. The palate is lean and fresh (alcohol is 11.5%) with a very dry finish.

## Radford Dale Organic Touchstone Chardonnay 2022

Elgin 2023 - 2029

17.5 / 20

*Certified organic (Ecocert). This is the first vintage that Radford Dale have made from their newly acquired estate-owned vineyards (bought in 2021, so this vintage was farmed entirely by the Radford Dale team). From four vineyards on the property which have been organic from the start (planted at different intervals between 2007 and 2017). Because the vineyards are south- and south-east facing and are just 6 km from the cold Atlantic ocean, the ripening season is long and slow and they can achieve full ripeness without losing acidity. They picked these grapes at pH 3.2, after fermentation the pH was still 3.2 and after full malolactic the pH was still 3.2 (even though malic acidity was one-third of total acidity to begin with). Whole-bunch pressed, spontaneous fermentation, very slow (eight weeks). Vinified in 5000litre barrels, 10% new. Screwcap.*

It starts quietly, slowly, almost tentatively appearing from the glass with sweet tangerine and orange blossom notes, a touch of struck flint. And then it begins to build: quietly, slowly, tentatively. Yuzu, chamomile, smoked sour cream and clementine-sweet acidity. Grilled chestnuts on a sunny winter afternoon – bright horizontal white-light purity, nutty warmth, earthy crème de marrons. The silky weight of this wine is strikingly sensual. It's like cool butterfly-light fingers running over warm curves, filling spaces with vibrations. This sets a whole new bar for Elgin Chardonnay. (TC)

## Radford Dale Organic Revelation Semillon 2022

Elgin 2024 - 2032

17.5 / 20

*Certified organic (Ecocert). From two vineyards planted in 2011 and 2017, south- and south-east facing. Head winemaker Jacques de Klerk tells me that none of the Radford team had much experience with Semillon, apart from blending it into Sauvignon: 'It has not been a variety that endeared itself to me', he explained, saying he found it was often too lean and austere. But he admired the textural element of Swartland Semillons, so when they bought the Radford Dale organic estate in 2021, with its 0.35 ha of Semillon, he decided to farm and vinify it for texture. When the grapes are peaberry size, they remove all the lower leafy canopy below and around the fruiting zone, exposing the bunches to gradually warming and intensifying sunlight. 'The right kind of sunlight on bunches at the right time means that the skins ripen in a way that allows us to do skin contact.' They crush, do two days of skin contact, then spontaneous fermentation. 'The juice is quite cloudy', and cloudy fermentations, he says, give the wine a different dimension.*

A Semillon as aromatic as this one is unusual. It has the fragrance of bergamot, of lemon scented jasmine, of pale-yellow roses, of lemongrass. But as ethereal as it is on the nose, it is element and entity on the palate. The acidity forges the shape of the wine, like an orb, like a harvest moon rising, full and rich and gold turning silver-bright-white on the watch. It has the texture of pomelo peel, oils and pith: grip and slip and oil and rich bitterness. It has density and chew, a long ripe spine of fleshy sweet bitterness. The finish is salty, tangy and visceral. You will want to lick the glass out. **GV** (TC)

## Radford Dale Organic Freedom Pinot Noir 2022

Elgin 2024 - 2031

17.5 / 20

*Certified organic (Ecocert). Screwcap. Winemaker Jacques de Klerk explains that he's been making Radford Dale Pinot from Elgin for a long time, but that there is a notable difference between the wine from this organic vineyard and the other vineyards he's worked with. 'It was one of the big draws when it came to buying this wine farm: organic Pinot vines, clones 115 and 777, grown on Bokkeveld shale, southeast-facing slopes. It's here that I can see the effect of organic farming the most. There is a density to the wine but also a density to the vines. They have a sturdiness – appearance wise, they are much less showy. They don't have the big green leaves, big bunches, super-charged appearance of the conventionally farmed vineyards, but the internodes and shoots are firmer, the skins are thicker and the berries are smaller. They do wholeberry fermentations which result in semi-carbonic maceration: 'it helps to control the tannins because the tannins form from the inside of the grape skin'.*

Rosehip, bruised raspberries and, exactly as Jacques de Klerk says, a distinct cola note. There is also an under-tonal timbre of rain on black slate, firm yet smooth. And a penumbra of the underloom; wispy white mycorrhizal whispers of mushrooms in the deepest places of the forest. The tannins feel like a child's breath through a gossamerknit cashmere scarf, weightless, yet with crochet-knot intricacy. Persistent, insistent, and, on the end, the scent of petrichor on a summer night. (TC)

## Radford Dale Organic Higher Purpose Cabernet Franc 2022

Elgin 2024 - 2032

17.5 / 20

*Certified organic (Ecocert). Vineyards planted in 2017. Aiming for Cab Franc that is more Loire than Bordeaux in style, avoiding both heaviness and greenness, Jacques de Klerk is managing their cool, southeast-facing vineyards in a very different way. Just after the bunches reach the 'peaberry' stage, they remove all the older, bigger, lower leaves on both sides of the canopy to expose the fruiting zone to as much light as possible. Photosynthetic energy comes from the highly productive newer leaves on the shoots (they leave long new-growth shoots). Because Elgin has much more cloud cover than other wine regions in SA, they get less infrared and so the exposure to light is less likely to lead to sunburn on grape skins. 'If you do it at the right time, the exposure hardens skins which makes them more resilient to sun.' Full carbonic maceration, all whole bunch, then into 2,500-litre concrete eggs, maceration for two weeks. They press when there is still some sugar left, and the wine goes back into same concrete egos to finish fermentation and age for 12 months with minimal rankings. It comes out of the eggs just before harvest and then into old barrels for a short bit. Light, crossflow filtration.*

A wine like this, when tasted in context of Lokaia and Lukas van Loggerenberg's Cabernet Francs, increasingly convinces me that South Africa's most beautiful red wines lie in the off-beat varieties, the ones that are so often seen as blending ingredients, like Cinsault and Cabernet Franc. The wine glows in the mouth, ruby sweet, jewelled, cut with the precision of a gemstone and yet so full of luminous light that the angles feel like curves. Sylph-soft, satin-slip tannins. It has, as all true Cab Franc has, a green-stone heartbeat: like luminous green moss on forest-stream stones. Angelica, baby tarragon leaves, cilantro stems and the sweet, sweet perfume of ripe redcurrants. It's a hauntingly beautiful wine. **VG**V (TC)



## Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2019

Stellenbosch 2021 - 2026

17

More obvious winemaking here than in the Renaissance Chenin but all well integrated. Creamy apple fruit, pear, more evident oak than on the Renaissance. Creamy, rounded, generous and full of fruit, mouth-filling in spite of its low alcohol, and with lovely freshness as a counterpoint to the texture. Needs time to gain complexity. Lightly chewy texture and great balance. (JH)

## Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2019

Stellenbosch 2021- 2028

16.5+

There is a more definite impression of oak on the nose compared with The Revelation Chenin just tasted. More creamy/mealy. But still plenty of fruit: citrus and green apple. Good intensity on the palate, precise and sharp-edged without being mean. Long, fresh aftertaste. Crisp acidity and still balanced – quite an achievement at such a modest alcohol level. (JH)

## Radford Dale Revelation Chenin Blanc 2019

Walker Bay 2021 - 2024

16.5

Light, apple and citrus aroma, perhaps a hint of pear, quite restrained. On the palate, an appetising sour-freshness balanced by the creamy texture given by the lees. As it warms up, I am quite surprised by the depth and concentration even if it is not an especially fruit-forward wine until it warms up. Bone dry and a very European style of Chenin though it doesn't have the level of acidity of a Loire Chenin. Has length and unexpected presence in the mouth for a wine with such modest alcohol. Clearly a carefully thought-out style. Smart winemaking. (JH)

## Radford Dale Chardonnay 2019

Stellenbosch 2021 - 2025

16.5

Like all the Radford Dale wines, the bottle seems heavier than necessary. Subtle, creamy/mealy aroma with a touch of spice. The fruit is citrus and melon but it's the oak that gives the character. Classy, fresh, oaked Chardonnay. The main impression is well-matched fruit and barrel, rather than site, though it has excellent freshness, hidden by the depth and weight of fruit. I find this slightly heavy and would therefore suggest it needs to be well-chilled. Given the acidity and early harmony, it should age well and become more interesting. (JH)

## Radford Dale Syrah 2017

Stellenbosch 2021 - 2027

17

Deepish cherry red. Dark, peppery and rocky/mineral, with plenty of black fruit and a complexity that comes from both a floral and a smoked-meat character. Smells very northern Rhône. Savoury, dark, peppery and deliciously fresh on the palate, concentrated but without heaviness. Long, elegant finish and a long way to go, with the potential for much more nuanced complexity. (JH)

## Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay 2019

Stellenbosch 2021 - 2025

16.5

Mid to light crimson with soft pink rim. Beautifully scented with pure, red and dark-red fruit and a very light herbal note from the whole bunches. It also avoids any impression of excess fruit sweetness, like their Pinot Noir, but here there is also a light and attractive pepperiness. This is lovely: the tannins a little firmer than I expected giving just the right framework for the vibrant fruit. Juicy, mouth-watering and very like a lighter style of cru beaujolais, or a superior Beaujolais-Villages wine. Good length, too. Delicious. (JH)

## Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2019

Stellenbosch 2021 - 2025

16.5

Lightish cherry red. Pure, non-sweet red-fruit aroma: zesty and fresh, more like cranberry and redcurrant than strawberry, with the merest hint of spice for seasoning. Extremely moreish and approachable even though it is well structured by supple tannins and juicy acidity. And the pure fruit kicks in again on the finish. Well balanced, lively, with good ageing potential though it would give pleasure now. (JH)

## Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2019

Stellenbosch 2021 - 2025

16.5

Mid crimson. Lively, red-fruited and sweet-smelling with a touch of ripe red cherry, a suggestion of cough linctus. The oak completely backgrounded. On the palate, juicy, scented and a long way from the Pinotage norm. Medium- to light-bodied, relatively delicate but so full of sweet fruits. Gently chewy tannins and a fresh aftertaste even though the acidity is on the low side. Like all the Radford Dale reds I have just tasted, impressive persistence. So drinkable without being simple. (JH)

## Radford Dale Thirst Cinsault 2020

Stellenbosch 2021 - 2023

16

Bright, light cherry red. All the inviting red fruit of this variety with a light savoury/smoky overlay, delicately peppery. I tasted this slightly chilled, which seems to suit the style of the wine. It's juicy, extremely fresh, light bodied and, as the name suggests, moreish when you are thirsty. Straightforward and, going by the price of the 2019 in the UK (£12.95), GV. Light but well-matched tannins. A joyous wine. (JH)

# South Africa 2023 Special Report

**Tim Atkin**<sup>MW</sup>

93 Points

Tim Atkin MW

92 Points

## **Radford Dale Organic Higher Purpose Cabernet Franc 2022**

Elgin (13%)

Taking its inspiration from the red wines of the Loire Valley - one of co-owner Alex Dale's preferred French regions - this Elgin Cabernet Franc was made with carbonic maceration in concrete eggs before aging in older barrels. Crunchy, perfumed and intense, with violet and green herb aromas, layers of plum and black cherry and a mineral finish. A wine that grows in the glass. 2025-32

## **Radford Dale Antidote Gamay Noir 2021**

Stellenbosch (12.5%)

Alex Dale and Jacques de Klerk are making a considerable splash with Gamay in the Cape, using fruit from a vineyard planted in 2017 and an older mother block. More structured than previous releases, this is racy, bright and juicy, with plum, pomegranate and raspberry flavours and some underlying wild herb notes. 2023-30

## **Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2022**

Stellenbosch (12%)

After a break in 2021, Renaissance is back in 2022 to delight its many fans. Sourced from a 52-year-old block on decomposed granite in Lynedoch, close to the Polkadraai Hills, this has some added texture and structure from partial skin contact, peach, passion fruit and citrus fruit intensity, understated wood and nuanced nutmeg spice. 2024-29

92 Points

## **Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2021**

Stellenbosch (11.5%)

"Bonzai vines with tiny berries" is how Jacques de Klerk describes this red gravel and ferricrete vineyard on the Lower Helderberg. Keeping extraction to a minimum, this is a tangy, refreshing, low-alcohol style with plum and raspberry flavours, fine tannins and mouth-watering acidity. 2024-30

## **Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2022**

Stellenbosch (12%)

Jacques de Klerk uses two different sites - on the Lower Helderberg and in the Polkadraai Hills - to produce this typically restrained, well-balanced Chardonnay. Fermented and aged in foudres and 15% new barrels, it's a pithy, subtle, focused style with lemon butter and citrus peel flavours and a stony, chiselled finish. 2023-28

## **Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2022**

Stellenbosch (12.5%)

One 52-year-old parcel on decomposed granite soils supplies the fruit for this ever-reliable, well-priced Chenin Blanc. Picked in January to retain acidity, it's a lightly oaked, foudre and older barrel-aged white with citrus and yellow apple flavours and a leesy mid-palate. 2023-28

91 Points

## **Radford Dale Organic Revelation Semillon 2022**

Elgin (13.5%)

Two Elgin vineyards, one of them planted with a very high density 10,000 vines per hectare, are the source of this wild yeast-fermented, full malolactic Elgin Semillon. Left on skins for three days, it has lanolin, honey and nutmeg aromas, lots of acidity and minerality, a waft of toast and some underlying grip. 2024-30

## **Radford Dale Organic Touchstone Chardonnay 2022**

Elgin (13.5%)

The first release from Radford Dale's new Elgin venture, this organically farmed Chardonnay comes from what was previously Elgin Ridge. Fermented with full malolactic to balance the acidity, it combines understated oak with flavours of lime, lemongrass and wet stone and a savoury, wild yeast undertone. 2024-30

## **Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2022**

Stellenbosch (13%)

One of the few South African wineries to take Gamay seriously, Radford Dale is doing its very best to promote the grape around the globe. Sourced from two parcels, this is a wonderfully sappy, tangy, energetic red with a touch of oak spice, red cherry and pomegranate fruit and some granitic grip. 2024-28

## **Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2022**

Coastal (13%)

Sold as a Coastal Pinotage because it partners Stellenbosch grapes with a 10% component from the Paardeberg, this is an intense, juicy, alluringly scented red with very subtle oak, raspberry and black cherry fruit flavours and smooth, succulent tannins. 2024-29

# South Africa 2022 Special Report

**Tim Atkin**<sup>MW</sup>

**94 Points**

Tim Atkin MW

**93 Points**

## **Radford Dale Chardonnay 2021**

Stellenbosch (12%) vol

One of the best Radford Dale Chardonnays I've had in a while, this impressive, pithy, low-alcohol 2021 comes from two types of decomposed granite in the Polkadraai Hills and the Lower Helderberg. Showing subtle struck match reduction, it's a chiselled, focused, subtly wooded white with lemongrass and wet stone flavours and lovely energy and vibrancy. 2022-27

**93 Points**

## **Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2020**

Stellenbosch (13%) vol

You can see the influence of Burgundy - Alex Dale's first love - on this fresh, perfumed, low-alcohol Pinotage from white clay soils on the Lower Helderberg. Savoury, spicy and showing impressive old-vine concentration, this Frankenstein is no monster, with refined tannins, subtle five-spice top notes and red berry sweetness. 2023-28

## **Radford Dale Freedom Organic Pinot Noir 2021**

Elgin (12.5%) vol

Sourced from the old Elgin Ridge farm, which Radford Dale have now purchased, this grippy, serious, organically farmed Pinot Noir is made with the 115 clone on Bokkeveld shale soils. Fresh and tangy, with savoury tannins, plum and redcurrant fruit and a touch of oak. 2023-28

## **Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2021**

Elgin (12.5%) vol

The 2021 vintage is the last of this wine, as Alex Dale and his team will be using their own organic Elgin grapes in future, but it's a lovely swansong. Juicy, detailed and perfumed, with fine-grained tannins, wild strawberry and raspberry coulis fruit and stylishly integrated 10% new wood. 2023-27

## **Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2021**

Elgin (12.5%) vol

The 2021 vintage is the last of this wine, as Alex Dale and his team will be using their own organic Elgin grapes in future, but it's a lovely swansong. Juicy, detailed and perfumed, with fine-grained tannins, wild strawberry and raspberry coulis fruit and stylishly integrated 10% new wood. 2023-27

## **Radford Dale Syrah 2020**

Stellenbosch (12%) vol

The Radford Dale team source this Syrah from two Lower Helderberg parcels on ferricrete soils. Lighter and less abrasive than it has been, this is all about purity and elegance, with subtle pepper spice from 30% whole bunches, bramble, red cherry and hibiscus flavours and impressive structure and palate length. 2023-30

## **Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2021**

Stellenbosch (13%) vol

Alex Dale and Jacques de Klerk are making a considerable splash with Gamay in the Cape, using fruit from a vineyard planted in 2017 and an older mother block. More structured than previous releases, this is racy, bright and juicy, with plum, pomegranate and raspberry flavours and some underlying wild herb notes. 2023-28

**92 Points**

## **Radford Dale Black Rock 2020**

Swartland (12.5%) vol

Black Rock is a Swartland cuvée of co-fermented Syrah with 50% Cinsault, Carignan, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Aged in 10% new oak - a lot for Radford Dale - this has intense aromas of pine, sage and eucalyptus, refreshing acidity, plenty of grip for a wine with 12.5% alcohol and blackberry and summer berry fruit. 2023-29

# South Africa 2021 Special Report

Tim Atkin MW

**Tim Atkin**<sup>MW</sup>

## 93 Points

### **Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2020**

Stellenbosch 13%vol

Fruit rather than oak-driven, this stylish Chenin Blanc combines stone fruit flavours of nectarine and peach with a waxy, supple mid palate, some cinnamon spice and plenty of bright green apple acidity on the finish. 2022-26

## 92 Points

### **Radford Dale Chardonnay 2020**

Stellenbosch 12%vol

Low in alcohol, as Alex Dale's whites tend to be, this certainly doesn't lack texture or weight. Toast and citrus flavours, with some pear, beeswax and fine oak make this a very enjoyable, well-focused Chardonnay. 2022-27

### **Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2020**

Elgin 12.5% vol

Whole berry, rather than whole bunch-fermented, this impressive Pinot Noir from Burgundy nut Alex Dale is sourced from Elgin. Savoury and spicy with redcurrant and raspberry fruit flavours, sinewy tannins and lots of verve and minerality. 2022-26

## 91 Points

### **Radford Dale Organic Chenin Blanc 2020**

Stellenbosch 13.5%vol

New to the Radford Dale range, and part of what will be an increased focus on organic wines, this impressive single vineyard Helderberg Chenin Blanc is layered and complex, with pear and nectarine fruit flavours, a hint of oak spice and bright acidity. 2022-26

### **Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2020**

Stellenbosch 13% vol

Vinum always delivers a lot of flavour at the price, combining tank and barrel-fermented components. Pear, beeswax and gentle oak flavours are embellished by tangy acidity and some baking spice sweetness. 2021-24

### **Radford Dale Syrah 2017**

Stellenbosch 13.5% vol

More reliable than the Nudity Syrah, this is a commendably serious, well-structured interpretation of the grape, despite its comparatively pale colour, with white pepper and bloody orange aromas and a tangy, meaty, subtly reduced palate. 2022-27

# South Africa 2021 Special Report

Tim Atkin MW

**Tim Atkin**<sup>MW</sup>

## 90 Points

### **Radford Dale Thirst Clairette Blanche 2020**

Stellenbosch (13%)

An intriguing addition to the enjoyable Thirst collection, this is a very quaffable Clairette Blanche showing sappy, thirst-quenching flavours of pear and grapefruit and a hint of passion fruit sweetness. 2021-24

### **Radford Dale Grenache 2020**

Stellenbosch (13%)

Definitely at the firmer and more tannic end of the Grenache spectrum, this is a serious interpretation of a grape that deserves to be more widely planted in South Africa. Savoury and focused, with redcurrant and red cherry fruit and negligible oak. 2022-26

### **Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2020**

Stellenbosch (13.5%)

Conceived as an antidote to blockbuster wines, this tasty Gamay comes from an ocean-influenced, 22-year-old parcel on decomposed granite soils. Supple, juicy and appealing, it combines raspberry and red cherry fruit with very understated oak and crunchy acidity. 2022-25

### **Radford Dale Thirst Gamay Noir 2020**

Stellenbosch (12%)

Just the thing to drink with a pizza, especially if it's served straight from the fridge, this is a delightfully approachable wine that puts a smile on your face. Sappy, bright and unoaked, with rose petal and summer pudding characters and supple tannins. 2021-24

### **Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2020**

Stellenbosch (13.5%)

Whole bunch and wild yeast fermented in 600-litre demi-muids, this Pinotage is an attempt to reveal the "hidden side" of the variety. Firm, sappy and well structured, with plum and wild strawberry fruit, savoury tannins and a spicy finish. 2021-24

# South Africa 2020 Special Report

Tim Atkin MW

## Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2019

**95/100**

“Alex Dale refers to Chenin Blanc as “South Africa's noblest grape” and it's hard to disagree when you taste a wine like this. Elegant and subtly wooded, this is all about balance and freshness, with fennel and lemongrass aromas, lemon and green apple flavours and the concentration and extract to age.”

## Radford Dale Chardonnay 2019

**93/100**

“Burgundy nut Alex Dale has shifted the style of his Stellenbosch Chardonnay in recent years from Meursault to Chablis, as it were. Low in alcohol, with pear, lemon and subtle cinnamon spice, this is long, refreshing and a pleasure to drink. The opposite of a one-glass wine.”

## Radford Dale The Revelation Chenin Blanc 2019

**93/100**

“Low in alcohol and deliberately made in a style that reflects its cooler Walker Bay source, this is a fresh, sappy, very lightly wooded Chenin Blanc with commendable precision, brightness and lift. Aniseed, citrus and wet stone flavours marry well on the palate.”

## Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2019

**92/100**

“Offering superb value for money at just R160, this is like a scaled-down rendition of Alex Dale's top wines. Taut and refreshing with wild yeast aromas and texture, a hint of oak spice and a core of crisp, tangy citrus and green apple fruit.”

## Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2019

**93/100**

“Reflecting Alex Dale's love of red Burgundy, this is a light, elegant, focused Elgin Pinot that wouldn't look out of place in Chorey-lès-Beaune. Graceful and refreshing, with redcurrant and watermelon flavours and fine-grained tannins supported by older oak.”

## Radford Dale Grenache 2019

**91/100**

“Sourced from Alex Dale's home vineyards, close to the Helderberg and cooled by the breezes from False Bay, this is a Grenache for Pinot Noir lovers, with some whole berry carbonic maceration. Medium weight, lightly wooded and spicy, with notes of thyme and fennel, tangy acidity and raspberry and bramble fruit flavours.”

## Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2019

**91/100**

“The aim here is to reveal “the hidden side of Pinotage”, using natural fermentation and carbonic maceration. It's certainly a wonderfully drinkable red: supple and juicy with impressive colour and concentration and raspberry and black cherry fruit.”

## Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2019

**90/100**

“Made in the style of a Beaujolais Cru rather than a Beaujolais Nouveau, this is a pretty serious Gamay from Alex Dale and his team. Savoury, grippy and showing some reduction, with bramble and raspberry fruit and a dusting of oak spice.”

## Radford Dale Thirst Gamay Noir 2019

**90/100**

“One of those wines that I often order by the glass in South African restaurants, this is a classic combination of Gamay on granite soils. Zesty, crunchy and refreshing, it has thirst-quenching acidity, pale colour and bright cherry and raspberry flavours.”

**Tim Atkin<sup>MW</sup>**

# Platter Wine Guide 2024



## 4.5 Stars

### **Radford Dale Organic Revelation Semillon 2022**

More flavour than fruit, a twist of ginger spice, texture being main feature of 2022 (94). Pure & deep, silkiness threaded with inherent vitality, fuelling the fantail savoury length. Wild ferment, 10 months older oak.

### **Radford Dale Organic Higher Purpose Cabernet Franc 2022**

More Loire than Bordeaux, 22 (93) had 2 weeks carbonic maceration in clay pots to show off variety's perfumed red fruit, leafy spice & finely woven tannins. Purity, freshness & gentle flesh do this to great effect. Already provides characterful drinking and substance for few years. Completed ferment/10months older oak.

### **Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2021**

One of earliest in lighter, more pinot noir-like style, refined in pure dark-berry perfume, silky feel of 2021 (92). Closes with tug of finest, freshening tannin. Power with elegance at modest 11.5% alc. Wholebunch/berry ferment in 7 000L vessel; aging 10 months in old small-oak.

### **Radford Dale Syrah 2021**

Intensite with style in 2021 (94)'s dark berry & black pepper depths, substantial supple texture. Firmly clasped by ripe tannins with savoury length, this serious wine will reward ageing. 30% wholebunch for freshness, older oak, 18 months, restrained 13% alc.

### **Radford Dale Gravity 2020**

2020 (93) from cab franc, mourvedre, shiraz & cab (34/25/22/19), eclectic yet homogenous blend with natural energy in its dark-fruited, savoury substance. Gravity-drain of juice from skins after lengthy maceration created purity & refinement with resolutely firm grip for ageing. Older oak, 18 months.

## 4 Stars

### **Radford Dale Organic Touchstone Chardonnay 2022**

Has Elgin's cool profile, & like Semillon, ample natural vigour. 2022 (89)'s lemon & more prominent earthly flavours are ripe, further broadened by lees ageing. Just enough supportive acidity suggests more medium- than long-term prospect. Bunch press, natural ferment in oak, 7% new.

## 4 Stars

### **Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2022**

Rad apple, pear & touch of oak spice complexity on 2022 (87), lees-enriched palate & some skin contact add verve & gentle grip. Styled for satisfying easy drinking.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2022**

Needs coaxing to get beyond initial struck match character & reveal bright lemon-lime flavours on comfortable, bouncy 2022 (87). Sparing use of older oak (50%) adds a little spice & grip to reach goal of class with drinkability.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2022**

Variety with which team has much experience, as elegant, silky & beguiling 2022 (89) confirms. Delicacy in black cherry fragrance, also depth of sweet fruit trimmed by gentle firmness. Older oak, 9 months.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2022**

Attracts with brilliant youthful hue, spicy red fruit succulence & mouthwatering fresh, dry finish. 2022 (88) delicious now, will continue to give pleasure for a few years. Wholeberry natural ferment, as all in range, 7 000L oak fermenter, ageing in older oak barrels.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2022**

Sprightly 2022 (88) shows purity & concentration of red berry, wild herb spiced flavours. Light footed, the densely meshed tannins provide freshness & flavourful resonance. Fermented/6 months older oak.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2022**

As other reds here, wholeberry ferment highlights purity of varietal fruit. 2022 (87) has floral element to sweet raspberry fragrance. Palate fleshy, with abundant sweet fruit, round off with Pinotage's tannin twang. 600L oak fermenters, 6 months older casks.

### **Radford Dale Thirst Clairette Blanche 2022**

Attractive take on rarely bottled variety. Spontaneously fermented 2022 (86) has expressive pear & earth flavours on a softish core, firmed & enlivened by a few hours' skin contact.

# Platter Wine Guide 2023

## 4.5 Stars

### **Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2021**

Eye-catching translucent ruby brilliance on 2021 (93) from Elgin. Aromatically quieter than 2020 (96), tighter build, the silky swathes, multi-layered flavours promise to resolve into classic style with time, which this deserves. Wholeberry ferment in 600L cask, then 10 months small oak, 10% new.

### **Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2020**

Handled like a pinot noir (50% bunch ferment, 10 months older oak), vibrant 16 (91) packed with bright, juicy, red berry fruit; at 12.75% alcohol, no monster, actually rather poised & elegant; perfumed & fresh.

### **Radford Dale Nudity Syrah 2020**

Syrah from organic Voor Pardeberg vines, vinified without any additions. Certain attractive or devious wildness in 2020 (90)'s spice, red fruit & fynbos assembly, also reflected in fresh, zesty palate & crunchy tannins, these tempered by more typical gentle flesh.

### **Radford Dale Syrah 2020**

More familiar face of syrah with its rounded, comfortably supple feel & generosity of ripe, dark fruits. 2020 (93)'s freshness, from 30% wholebunch, & firm, savoury tannins allow for future, further complexity. Older Oak, 18 months. 12.5% alc.

### **Radford Dale Black Rock 2020**

Reflection of Swartland area rather than individual varieties. 2020 (93) led by syrah plus 4 other associated with southern Rhône. Unshowy spicy & dark-fruited 2020 (93) is, like 2019 (95), densely textured, has rumble of friendly tannins with delicious savoury persistence.

### **Radford Dale Gravity 2014**

Named for lengthy gravitational drain of juice from skins without pressing. Current 2014 (93), released after 2015 (94), 60% syrah, equal parts merlot & cab. Attractions include a little development, complexity of bright red fruits & spice, savoury richness. Confidently built for further ageing; already begs rare T-bone. 18 months in older oak.

### **Radford Dale Chardonnay 2021**

2020 (90) usual tangy lime marmalade & dash of toasty oak, cushioned by lees padding. Cool & seamless with steely acid driving flavour intensity of great length. Good now, potential for few years more.

### **Radford Dale The Renaissance of Chenin Blanc 2020**

Ripe yellow-gold colour refrained in languid textural richness, lush peachy fruit on 20 (93). Older oak & partial skin contact add depth, a fine, freshening thread of acidity draws it all together, leads to delicious, expansive tail. 13% alcohol.

## 4.5 Stars

### **Radford Dale Organic Freedom Pinot Noir 2021**

From new-for-RD Elgin organic vineyard, vinified in dedicated organic cellar. 2021 (93) intrigues with whispered berry fragrance, crushed velvet texture & languid freshness. More More emphatic is the elegant fantail of red cherries & fine-knit tannins. A charmer! Whole berry ferment, 20% new oak, 11 months.

## 4 Stars

### **Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2021**

Unshowy 2021 (89) more structured, concentrated than Vinum version. Ripe, with deep tangy red fruit, firmly dry, already drinks well. Mix wholebunch/berry ferment in 700L wooden vessel, then year small, older oak.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021**

Aromatic depth with restraint in 2021 (87)'s attractive floral & red apple tones. The ripe fleshy core has a comfortable feel, oaked portion & little skin contact add shoulder & pithy texture. Tuned for easy, moreish drinking.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2021**

As with rest of Vinum range, 2021 (87) chardonnay offers class with drinkability. Lemony zest, a little oak spice & creamy lees combine with understated purity & freshness. Tug of grip adds to interest. Natural ferment, older Burgundian oak, 9 months.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2021**

Variety increasingly important for Radford Dale. 2021 (87) carbonic maceration in 7 000L oak fermenters, more serious than nouveau style; bright cranberry juiciness, sweet flesh & crunchy tannins. Older oak, 10 months, adds shoulder, breadth.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2021**

Fragrant dark berry, raspberry & light spice offer immediate charm in 2021 (89). Supple, pure & delicate, also depth of rich flavour & pleasing firmness adding to current & future enjoyment. Great value too. Wholeberry natural ferment, older Burgundy barrels, 6 months.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2021**

Styled to show 'hidden side of Pinotage', 2021 (87) maceration carbonique, 600L wooden fermenters. Attractive, pinot noir-like fragrance; fresh & soft, juicy flavours with concluding nip of lively tannin. Older small-oak rounding, modest 11.5% alc add to drinking pleasure.





# Platter Wine Guide 2022

## 5 Stars

### **Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2020**

Fabulous perfume on 20 (96); resonating, classic tones of dark cherries, raspberries & damp undergrowth, echoed in palate's silky flow. Elgin's natural freshness completes this beguiling wine. Lovely aging potential. Whole berry ferment in 600L Barrels, then small-oak 9 months

### **Radford Dale Black Rock 2019**

Plenty of grunt in syrah-led blend from Swartland. 19 (95) rich, red-earth tones, black berries, dashed with spiced jostle harmoniously on densely textured palate; friendly rumble of tannin allows for current/future enjoyment. Warming long.

## 4.5 Stars

### **Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2016**

Handled like a pinot noir (50% bunch ferment, 10 months older oak), vibrant 16 (91) packed with bright, juicy, red berry fruit; at 12.75% alcohol, no monster, actually rather poised & elegant; perfumed & fresh.

### **Radford Dale Nudity Syrah 2019**

Most natural of states is the purpose of n-additions syrah from organic Voor Paardeberg vines. 19 (91) has stark fruit purity, bright red-fruit & zippy spice layered in supple flesh. Crunchy tannins & crisp acidity promote delicious savoury length. Distinctive & possibly divisive style.

### **Radford Dale Gravity 2015**

15 (94) leads with 81% syrah, equal parts merlot & cab influential bit players lending black berry top note, sound structure to syrah's rich, velvety core. There's some savoury development, complexity, but firm tannins, ripe acidity offer further few year's pleasure.

## 4.5 Stars

### **Radford Dale Chardonnay 2020**

Older-oak-fermented 20 (90) shows tasty assembly of zesty lime marmalade, spice oak & dab of less padding. A cool, lengthy ferment & integrated, natural acid give length & a pure, seamless feel.

## 4 Stars

### **Radford Dale Grenache 2020**

Good depth, concentration of spiced red fruit, partial carbonic maceration in large oak adding vitality, freshness to 20( 86). Rounded, firm tannin grip should allow for development.

### **Radford Dale Thirst Clairette Blanche 2021**

Brimming with freshness & vitality, 21 (86) is flavourful with notes of pear extended by pithy kick in bone-dry tail from few hours' skin contact.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2020**

Expressive chenin, 20 (89) has expansive red apple & pear fragrance, great purity & freshness; 40% oak adds shoulder, a little skin contact pithy texture. Drinking pleasure.

### **Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2020**

20 (87) focuses on fruit & freshness. Crunchy ripe plums accompanied by bite of dark chocolate & grippy resonance. Carbonic maceration in large open wooden fermenters, then older small-oak 6 months.

# Platter Wine Guide 2021

## 4.5 stars

### Radford Dale Chardonnay 2019

Barrel-fermented 19 (90) shows toasty oatmeal, cinnamon & clove from the oak, 15% new, mingling with lively citrus notes & fresh herbs. 9 months on lees add intensity & texture to mid-palate. Well balanced, food friendly. 13% alcohol. Also in 1.5L, as next.

### Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2019

Lean & nervy 19 (94) shows restrained peach & pear fruit with fragrant spiced apple-cake tang from barrel ferment, 10% new. Crisp, poised acidity & clean salty notes from 9 months on lees run through to satisfying finish. Modest 11.7% alcohol.

### Radford Dale The Revelation Chenin Blanc 2019

Debuted last edition as 'Chenin Blanc'. Barrel-fermented 19 (92) on an upward curve, more expressive than retasted 18 (89), with richer, rounder mid-palate of savoury-edged stonefruit & yellow apple. Sherbet lemon acidity & aniseed twist complete a panoply of flavours, excellent length & intensity. Stanford vines.

### Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2019

Excellent concentration & depth from wholeberry-fermented Elgin fruit. 19 (93) classic notes of wet earth, leaves, coffee, cranberry & raspberry. Sappy acidity zests up ripe fruit, soft tannins complete really lovely drink. 10% new oak. 60 magnums available - hurry.

### Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2017

Reflects clay soils with textured power - but 17 (91) no monster, at 11% alcohol actually rather elegant, perfumed & refreshing. Whole bunches/berries & semi-carbonic maceration in 7,000L vat before 10 months finishing in 600L barrels. Also in 1.5L.

### Radford Dale Nudity Syrah 2018

No additions for 18 (89) from organic Voor Paardeberg vines, giving earthy tone with dried fruit, red cherry & sharp lemony acidity. Firm tannins & soft spice from 10 months oak. Slightly gutsier alcohol (13.2%) than 17 Å93, shade less nuanced.

### Radford Dale Syrah 2017

Singular Stellenbosch rendition, more muscular, less fragrant than Nudity. 17 (94) Inch up on 15 (93); scrub & fynbos profile heralds savoury intensity with lovely balance in a long finish. 30% wholebunch, some post-ferment maceration. 20% new oak, 18 months. No 16. Also in 1.5L.

### Radford Dale Black Rock 2018

Delicious Rhône blend, mostly syrah this vintage, near-equal carignan, cinsaut & mourvèdre, all from Swartland & co-fermented for seamless harmony. 18 (94) ripe, forthright black-berried fruit, fragrant notes of polish & pepper, velvet texture & excellent length. 15% new oak. Magnums too.

### Radford Dale Gravity 2013

Traditional styling on 13 (93) from syrah & cab (62/38), showing developed garnet colour & savoury Marmite notes, with ripe stewed fruit & perfumed pepper & cloves. Drinking beautifully, but nice tannic grip & still-lively acidity suggest good few years ahead. 15 months in 600L oak. No 12.

## 4 Stars

### Radford Dale Cinsault 2019

A Fresh & lively 19 (87), succulent red cherries & plums, soft tannins from semi-carbonic maceration, zesty acidity throughout. 12.9% alcohol.

### Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2019

Peppery & spicy 19 (85) shows gentle tannins from carbonic maceration & crisp acidity edging round, soft red-berry fruit. Shade less energetic than 18 (89). 12.7% alcohol. Only old oak, as all ranges unless noted.

### Radford Dale Grenache 2019

A Part-carbonic maceration in large oak fermenter gives fresh red-berry jam & attractive menthol notes to 19 (86). Good palate weight & just enough tannic grip to round out fresh finish. Unfined/filtered, as reds across the ranges.

### Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2019

Bursting with character, 19 (88) delivers riot of fruit (pineapple, apple, pear), 20% skin contact & 30% oak (some new) add texture & interest. Zippy acidity & good length make textbook chenin. 11.8% alcohol.

### Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2019

Fruit-forward 19 (87)'s jammy strawberries nicely reined in by bitter chocolate core & grippy texture. Carbonic maceration in open wood fermenters, then 10 months in small barrels. Improves on 18 (85).

### Radford Dale Thirst Cinsault 2020

Crunchy & vibrant 20 (85) made with carbonic maceration (as Gamay sibling) for soft & juicy expression of ripe red-berried fruit. Unoaked, like 17 (86). No 18, 19 untasted. 12.5% alcohol. Low sulphur for these.

### Radford Dale Thirst Gamay Noir 2020

Fetch the ice bucket & chill nouveau-style unwooded 20 (84), offering juicy gummy bear red-fruit notes, bouncy acidity. Like 19 (86), long-lunch-friendly easy alcohol (11%).

### Radford Dale Thirst Clairette Blanche 2020

Scrumptious 20 (86) packed full of personality, freshness & appeal. Peach & pear with pithy texture from 4 days on skins, feisty acidity, clean leafy finish. Unoaked & 12.5% alcohol, as 18 (85). 19 untasted

**Winemag**

Christian Eedes

Radford Dale The Revelation Chenin Blanc 2018

**96/100**

“The palate is light bodied with snappy acidity, the finish long and pithy – this is a wine that really crackles with energy. A particular and arresting take on the variety.”

Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2016

**95/100**

“The palate has a wonderful transparency about it with pure fruit, fresh acidity and chewy tannins.”

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2018

**94/100**

“Wonderfully well balanced on the Palate with great fruit concentration matched by bright acidity. Full of verve, this is cleverly put together.”

Radford Dale Syrah 2017

**94/100**

“Balanced and nicely nuanced, this is an accomplished offering.”

Radford Dale Renaissance Chenin Blanc 2018

**93/100**

“Think textured and very flavourful, there is equally a good line of acidity and pithy finish. Plusher and less steely than its counterpart above.”

Radford Dale Nudity Syrah 2018

**92/100**

“Striking in its angularity, this will appeal to the geeks...”

Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2018

**92/100**

“The palate is light bodied and super-elegant – pure fruit, zesty acidity and tannins that are fine yet grippy.”

Radford Dale Black Rock 2017

**92/100**

“Red and black fruit, olive, intense spice and dried herbs on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with lemon-like acidity and a super-savoury finish.”

Radford Dale Gravity 2013

**90/100**

“Full-bodied with tannins that seem just about resolved already, the overall impression being deeply savoury. Pretty much ready for drinking.”

Radford Dale The Antidote Gamay Noir 2019

**90/100**

“An unfamiliar but intriguing flavour profile.”

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2019

**89/100**

“The nose shows a floral top note before red cherry while the palate is light and bright with a gently savoury finish. A cheerful drop.”

# WINEMAG.CO.ZA

Christian Eedes - 16 October 2021

## Radford Dale Organic Chenin Blanc 2020

**95/100**

“White peach, cut apple, almond and herbs on the nose while the palate has lovely fruit definition, zippy acidity and a savoury finish. Intricate and subtle, this is very pleasurable.”

## Radford Dale Frankenstein Pinotage 2020

**95/100**

“First vintage since 2016. Red currant, cherry, floral fragrance and candy floss on the nose while the palate is exquisitely balanced – lovely clarity of fruit, bright acidity and powdery tannins.”

## Radford Dale Grenache 2020

**92/100**

“Compelling aromatics of red and black berries, dried herbs, hung meat, earth and spice on the nose while the palate has more depth of fruit, flavour and tannic grip than many local examples – well balanced with plenty of interest.”

## Radford Dale Freedom Pinot Noir 2020

**92/100**

“Musk, red berries, a hint of fynbos and spice on the nose while the palate is light bodied and energetic – pure fruit, fresh acidity and fine tannins, the finish nicely dry and persistent.”

## Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2020

**91/100**

“Stone fruit and kernel plus a little earth on the nose while the palate shows pure fruit, bright acidity and a gently savoury finish. Not without volume, this over-delivers at the price.”

## Vinum Pinotage 2020

**89/100**

“A hint of reduction before cherry and plum on the nose while the palate is medium bodied with fresh acidity”

**Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2022 92 Points**

12.5% alcohol. A lovely balance here between the rich pear and peach fruit, with some bright tapering citrus fruit. Nice tangerine finish. Fresh and expressive with good precision.

**Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2022 93 Points**

12.5% alcohol. A bright, fresh style but with some body. Lively citrus fruit (lemon, mandarin) with some spicy grapefruit freshness. Such focus and intensity, with some baked apple richness at the bass end and bright spicy citrus at the treble.

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2022 93 Points**

13% alcohol. Supple and sweet with lovely cherry and strawberry fruit showing nice texture and a slight sappy edge. So juicy but with silkiness and smoothness too. Very fine and accessible. But elegant, too. 93/100

**Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2022 93 Points**

13% alcohol. There's a second vineyard in the mix this year, and they were able to pick the younger vineyard on the Polkadraai a bit later. Nice depth here with warm, sweet spicy cherry and berry fruit with a slight herby, peppery edge and nice depth. There's a sweet, viscous core to the fruit. Rich and spicy.

**Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2022 94 Points**

13% alcohol. A second vintage from the Stellenbosch mountain is included this year, in addition to the young vines on the home Helderberg farm. Juicy and vivid with sweet plums and cherries, with pepper and mint notes. Sweet strawberry and raspberry on the palate with a juicy edge, fine green hints and a touch of pepper. There's a lovely finesse to this with good acidity and a sense of purity.

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2022 91 Points**

Vivid, bright raspberry and blackberry fruit on the nose. Juicy and lively with subtle green herby notes. So fresh, but also rich at the same time. Shows blackcurrant, blackberry and a lively sweet spicy quality. Beautifully dense.

**Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021 93 Points**

12% alcohol. This is bright, vivid and citrusy with lovely acidity, but also some attractive pear and white peach notes. The keen acid line is the real backbone here: it's got plenty of concentration, but it's made in a linear, incisive style with real freshness, and a stony minerality. There's some mandarin and citrus peel on the finish, adding interest.

**Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2021 92 Points**

12.5% alcohol. This is stony, mealy and citrusy on the nose, with a hint of pear drop. The palate is lively and intense with a stony, mineral edge to the citrus fruit, a hint of peach and pineapple richness in the background, and some breadly hints. But the key theme is keen lemony fruit with a twist of pithiness and a tapering stony finish.

**Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2021 93 Points**

13.5% alcohol. Supple, fresh aromatics of strawberry and cherry with some herbal overtones. The palate is light, fresh and direct with bright cherry and plum fruit, as well as some stony mineral notes and a twist of fresh herbs. There's real drinkability to this light, elegant expression of Grenache. Juicy and supple, and with lots of drinkability.

**Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2021 93 Points**

11.5% alcohol. This is a very light, fresh, supple expression of Gamay, with cranberry and cherry notes, a slight leafiness and some real brightness. There's lovely perfume and the fruit on the palate is deliciously crunchy – despite the low alcohol, this wine is ripe and it has a lot of drinkability.

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2021 91 Points**

11.5% alcohol. Bright, vibrant raspberry and redcurrant fruit aromas with a liqueur-like sweetness and some freshness. The palate is bright, vibrant and focused with a slight sternness under the sleek, fresh cherry and plum fruit. There's a touch of greenness as well as some cedar, adding some savoury elements. This is direct, with nice purity, and superb drinkability and balance.

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2021 93 Points**

12.5% alcohol. Fresh, bright and aromatic with some green herby hints as well as vibrant plum and strawberry fruit. Bright and quite elegant, with sweet raspberry, cherry and plum fruit on the palate as well as some notes of spice, tar and wet stones. This has lovely poise: it tastes quite Elgin-like, with that stony, savoury, slightly grunty twist under the vibrant fruit. Massive drinkability and nice freshness.

**Christian Eedes**

**Vinum Chenin Blanc 2022 90 Points**

Grapes from various Stellenbosch sites. Inviting aromatics of floral perfume, citrus, peach and spice. Clean and fresh on the palate – nice fruit weight before a gently savoury finish. More fleshed out than 2021 – alcohol is 12.5%.

**Vinum Chardonnay 2022 91 Points**

Again from various Stellenbosch sites. Lime, lemon, white peach and a hint of vanilla on the nose. Good fruit concentration and bright acidity before a nicely dry finish. A cheerful wine that's true to the variety.

**Vinum Gamay Noir 2022 92 Points**

Grapes from two Polkadraai Hills vineyards on granite soils, the one planted in 1990 and the other in 2017. Quite heady aromatics of dark cherry, floral perfume and herbs while the palate is that much more substantial than 2021 – dense fruit and snappy acidity, the finish nicely grippy without being astringent. Alc: 13%.

**Vinum Grenache 2022 91 Points**

Grapes from two Stellenbosch vineyards. Cranberry, strawberry, white pepper and other spice on the nose while the palate medium bodied with good freshness and powdery tannin, the finish nicely dry. Well balanced, this is a great example of a "light red" that lends itself to being served slightly chilled.

**Vinum Pinotage 2022 92 Points**

90% Stellenbosch, 10% Swartland grapes. Red and black cherry, floral perfume and herbs on the nose while the palate shows dense fruit, bright acidity and fine tannins (alc: 13%). Wonderfully well managed, this once again shows that the variety doesn't always have to be big and rugged.

**Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021 91 Points**

Expressive aromatics of pear, peach, citrus and cut apple while the palate has good depth of fruit, tangy acidity and a savoury finish. Perfectly styled in the sense of being not too geeky nor too conventional.

**Vinum Chardonnay 2021 92 Points**

A herbal top note before pear, peach, citrus and a hint of struck match. The palate has a lovely clarity about it – pure fruit and zippy acidity before a dry finish.

**Vinum Gamay Noir 2021 89 Points**

The nose shows wild strawberry plus hints of herbs and spice while the palate is light yet flavourful with moderate acidity.

**Vinum Pinot Noir 2021 90 Points**

Subtle notes of red cherry and musk on the nose while the palate is light bodied with pure fruit, bright acidity and fine tannins, a slightly salty quality to the finish. A charming rendition of the variety.

**Vinum Grenache 2021 93 Points**

Red currant, cherry, spice and even a slight meatiness on the nose while the palate shows good fruit definition, snappy acidity and powdery tannins. An elegant and refined wine with both detail and poise.

**Vinum Pinotage 2021 91 Points**

The nose shows a top note of floral perfume before red and black cherry plus a subtle earthiness. Good fruit expression, bright acidity and tannins that are firm but not astringent. Not too underdone at 11.5% alcohol, this a thoroughly modern and very likeable take on the variety.

**Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2018 94 Point**

**Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2020 91 Points**

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2019 89 Points**

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2020 89 Points**

**92 Points**

**South Africa 2022 Special Report**

**91 Points**

**Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2021**

Stellenbosch (13.5%)

The vines may be young, at just eight years of age, but there's no denying the quality or potential of this Helderberg Grenache from sand and granite soils. Sappy, red-fruited and intense, with savoury tannins, cranberry and red cherry fruit and lovely brightness and palate length. 2022-28

**91 Points**

**Radford Dale Vinum Gamay 2021**

Stellenbosch (11.5%)

"Gamay loves granite, so it's well-suited to South Africa," says Alex Dale, who sources this example from two vineyards in the Polkadraai Hills. Light, stony and intensely perfumed, with sappy notes from partial carbonic maceration and a juicy redcurrant and pomegranate palate. 2022-26

**Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021**

Stellenbosch (12%)

Part of a now extended Vinum range from Radford Dale, this stylish, low-alcohol Chenin Blanc uses a base of 50-year-old vines from the Helderberg and delivers a lot of flavour for the price. Savoury waxy and yeasty, with pear and green fig flavours and negligible oak. 2022-27

**Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2021**

Stellenbosch (12.5%)

Formerly labelled as Terroir Chardonnay, this Stellenbosch Chardonnay is now included under the Vinum umbrella. Picked in three stages for complexity, it's a refined, old barrel-fermented style that nods towards Alex Dale's beloved Burgundy, with pear, lemongrass and subtle nutmeg spice flavours. 2022-26

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2021**

Western Cape (12.5%)

Two sources (Bot River and Devon Valley) and two clones (115 and 777) supply the raw material for this scented, focused, savoury Pinot Noir that shows some clove spice notes from 20% whole bunches, appealing underlying grip and red cherry and strawberry fruit. 2022-27

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2021**

Coastal (11.5%)

Part of the Vinum portfolio from the start, this Pinotage all hails from Stellenbosch but is labelled as a Coastal wine because it will include Swartland grapes in 2022. Light, elegant and foudre-aged, it expresses the Pinot Noir side of the grape's parentage, with low alcohol, gentle tannins and sweet summer pudding flavours. 2022-28

**94 POINTS**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2015

**93 POINTS**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2017

**92 POINTS**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2019

Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2021

**91 POINTS**

Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021 & 2020

Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2021 & 2019

**90 POINTS**

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2018

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2020

**JULIA HARDING MW**

**Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2022 – 16.5 Points**

More obviously oaky on the nose than the Vinum Chenin Blanc 2022 with an enticing creamy, smoky, mealy aroma that enhances but doesn't drown out the fruit, which is citrus and melon and a hint of clementine. Deeply flavoured, a little bit of oak spice, firm in texture and finely balanced with a long, fresh finish. GV (JH)

**Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2022 – 16 Points**

Pure, slightly salty citrus aroma with a touch of green apple that is subtly influenced by the oak, showing in spice and creaminess more on the palate than on the nose, and a savoury -fresh aftertaste. Really salty on the finish giving a nicely sour -fresh aftertaste More oomph than you might expect at such a modest alcohol level, thanks, I am guessing, to the brief skin contact as well as the oak, which add presence in the mouth as well as a slightly firmer texture – but not at all tannic. Sophisticated wine for the price. ( JH)

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2022 – 16 Points**

Light ruby colour. Sweet, tangy red fruit, sweet and aromatic without being in the least confectioned. Vibrant and juicy fruit, more redcurrant and red cherry than strawberry, with a gentle note of oak spice. Definite but fine -grained tannins already smooth, refreshingly sweet/sour on the finish and more savoury on the aftertaste, and harmoniously fresh. In the days of Pinot Noir inflation, this is QGV. (JH)

**Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2022 – 16 Points**

Mid cherry red. Deliciously scented with pure dark -red fruit and a hint of crushed stones. I was worried this would be less fresh than the 2021, and it tastes as if it is even though the numbers are roughly the same. Perhaps the acidity is more hidden by depth of fruit, along with the higher alcohol, but the fruit is still vibrant, both red and dark -red in character. Silky tannins even now but I miss the peppery quality of the 2021. The oak is well -judged and this may have broader appeal than the 2021, which I loved, even if this is probably a more complete, rounded wine. (JH)

**Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2022 – 16 Points**

Lightish crimson with watery purple rim. Subtle, red -fruited Grenache aroma, giving the impression of freshness rather than ripeness from the get -go. The fruit is mostly red and scented but it is the finely dry tannins that are the key here, bringing energy and freshness. A step up in quality compared with the 2021. Deeper, longer and more finely balanced. Deliciously dry finish. (JH)

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2022 – 16 Points**

Mid crimson. Pure, dark fruit – I'd be hard pressed to identify the variety from the aroma here, maybe because I am not used to such pure, clean -cut and fruity Pinotage. On the palate, firm, grippy but rounded tannins. Really well -balanced between structure and fruit. With impressive concentration and length for a wine at this price. I'd keep this another year in bottle and would expect it to age well. GV (JH)



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*Vinum*

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**JULIA HARDING MW**

**Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021 – 16.5 Points**

Rich, pure Chenin Blanc fruit aromas of fresh, lightly spiced pear and very ripe citrus (orange as well as grapefruit) entwined with a light mealy/creamy impression from the oak. There's a tiny hint of reduction, or so it seems, giving it an inviting smoky edge and adding another layer of complexity before it even goes into your mouth. That lovely smokiness and grapefruit zing increase as the wine warms up. Excellent counterbalance between the crisp acidity and the textured richness on the palate. That spicy pear flavour comes back on the finish. Well-modulated and persistent. Great Value (JH)

**Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2021 – 16.5 Points**

There's something similar between this and the Chenin Blanc that I think must come from the site – a sort of spicy richness in the aroma as well as a brightness of fruit. Here the oak is a little more obvious but not intrusive. More leesy oatmeal in the aroma and more creaminess and roundness on the palate, which is also a little fuller-bodied than the Chenin but still with a delightfully low alcohol level given the richness of flavours. A very good balance between freshness and layered texture. Persistent but still light on its feet for a barrel-fermented wine. Great Value (JH)

**Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2021 – 16.5 Points**

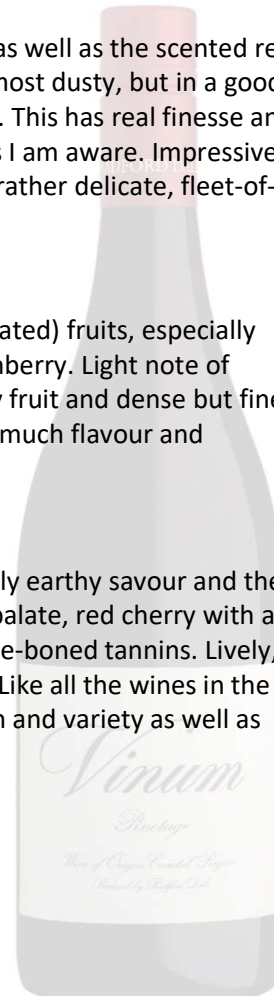
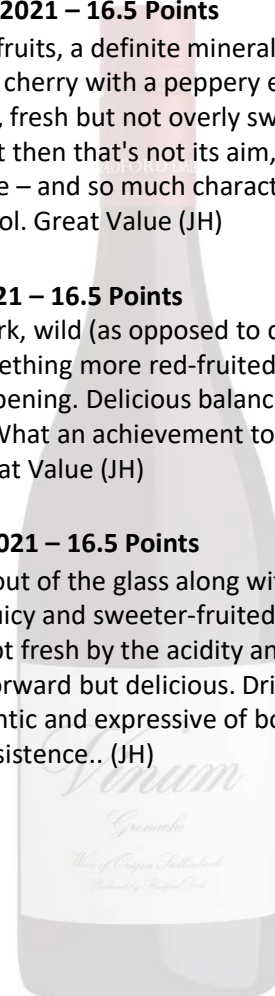
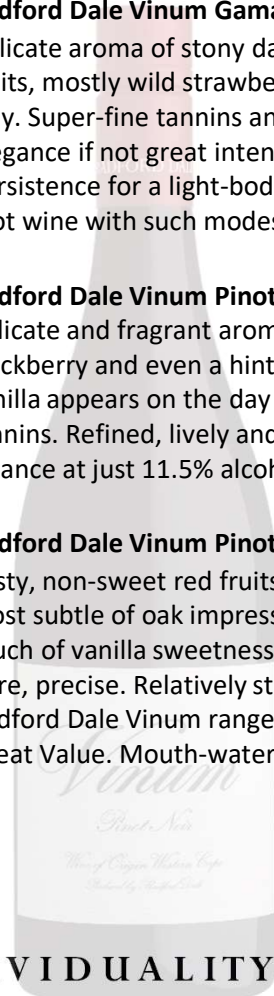
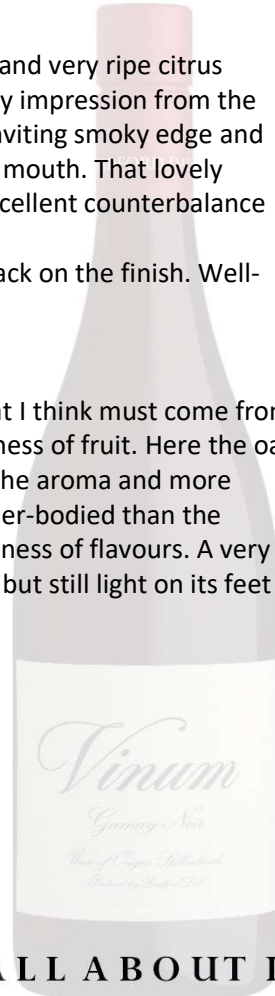
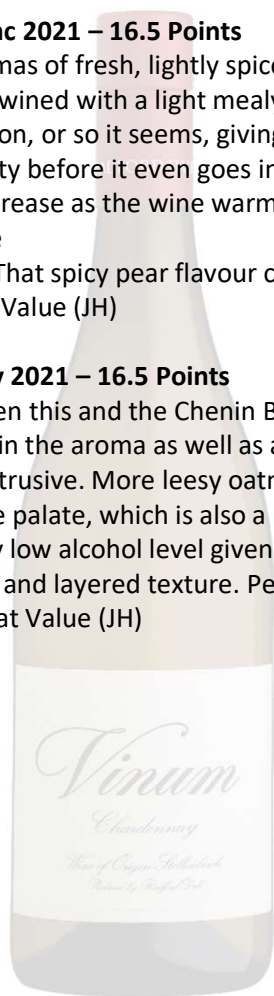
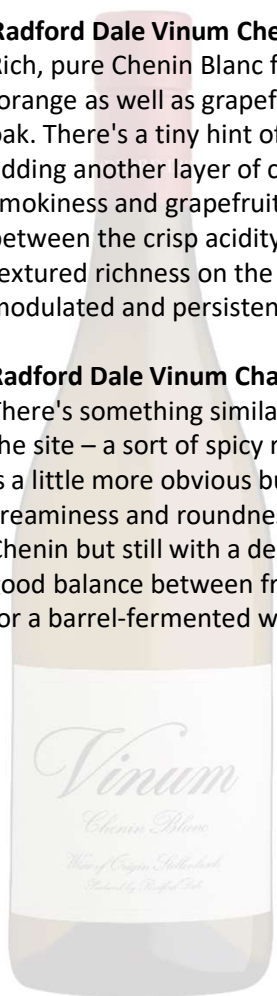
Delicate aroma of stony dark-red fruits, a definite mineral quality as well as the scented red fruits, mostly wild strawberry and cherry with a peppery edge. Almost dusty, but in a good way. Super-fine tannins and lively, fresh but not overly sweet fruit. This has real finesse and elegance if not great intensity, but then that's not its aim, as far as I am aware. Impressive persistence for a light-bodied wine – and so much character for a rather delicate, fleet-of-foot wine with such modest alcohol. Great Value (JH)

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2021 – 16.5 Points**

Delicate and fragrant aroma of dark, wild (as opposed to domesticated) fruits, especially blackberry and even a hint of something more red-fruited like cranberry. Light note of vanilla appears on the day after opening. Delicious balance of juicy fruit and dense but fine tannins. Refined, lively and long. What an achievement to get this much flavour and balance at just 11.5% alcohol. Great Value (JH)

**Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2021 – 16.5 Points**

Zesty, non-sweet red fruits jump out of the glass along with a lightly earthy savour and the most subtle of oak impressions. Juicy and sweeter-fruited on the palate, red cherry with a touch of vanilla sweetness yet kept fresh by the acidity and the fine-boned tannins. Lively, pure, precise. Relatively straightforward but delicious. Drink cool. Like all the wines in the Radford Dale Vinum range, authentic and expressive of both origin and variety as well as Great Value. Mouth-watering persistence.. (JH)



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**JULIA HARDING MW**

**17 POINTS**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2019

**16.5 POINTS**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2017

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2020

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2019

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2018

**Decanter**

**94 Points**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2015

**93 Points**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2018

**90 Points**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2012

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2017



*Vinum*



**PLATTER SOUTH AFRICAN WINE GUIDE**

**4.5 STARS**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2012

**4 STARS**

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2020

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2019

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2018

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2017

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2016

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2015

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2014

Radford Dale Vinum Chenin Blanc 2013

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2020

Radford Dale Vinum Pinotage 2019

Radford Dale Vinum Chardonnay 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Gamay Noir 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Pinot Noir 2021

Radford Dale Vinum Grenache 2021

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