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MATURATION REPORT

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2021

# YOUR PATIENCE WILL BE REWARDED...

Allowing wines that deserve to age the necessary time to evolve should not be too difficult if you have developed a love and appreciation for the beauty of older wines' elegant and mellow maturity.

Having your liquid investment mature under optimal conditions at the Bergkelder Vinotèque permits gorgeous changes to occur in the bottle - your wine becomes softer and better balanced, while also adding complexity and depth of character. Opening one of your wines after years of maturation should be one of life's ultimate pleasures - simply sit back, relax and enjoy.



**Michael van Deventer**

Vinoteque Manager

Each year, our panel of wine connoisseurs comes together to evaluate all our wines. The results are shared with our members in our annual maturation report, which provides guidance as to when your wines are ready to enjoy.



**Further maturation recommended.**



**Can be enjoyed now, but will also improve in the cellar over the short-term.**



**Matured and ready to be enjoyed .**

Please note that wines reported as "Ready to be enjoyed" or "Drink now" in previous reports are not included in this report and we recommend that you contact us immediately to arrange for delivery as these wines will not benefit from further time in the cellar.

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## Allesverloren Cabernet 2014

Dusty intro with cedar and wet earth. Exposure to air in the glass reveals sour cherry, red currant and tobacco. The 2014 is benefitting from time in the bottle and getting better, revealing more fruit wrapped in velvety tannins. Worthy to keep a little longer, although short to medium term.



Drink 2021 to 2025.

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## Allesverloren Cabernet 2016

Riper notes in the 2016 combine with toasty oak and a slight balsamic note. This vintage lacks the harmony of other years. Prominent, angular tannins remain and the charry oak is also not yet integrated. Should soften over short-term cellaring, but won't reach the heights of other vintages.



Drink 2022 to 2025.

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## Allesverloren Cabernet 2017

Improved purity and ripeness of the 2017 likely indicates the excellence of the vintage, even though yields were down considerably due to drought. Harmonious interplay between dark fruit, crushed herbs and dark chocolate notes coming from élevage in oak. Highlight in the line-up, the wine is already offering drinking pleasure due to its integration, but will likely improve a little with age.



Drink now through 2027.



www.allesverloren.co.za

### Allesverloren Fine Old Vintage 2010

Dark garnet colour introduces an opulent Christmas cake nose. Voluptuous praline and candied orange peel on the palate, finished off with lingering spicy fruit and a hint of dark chocolate ganache. Not the most complex of Cape Vintages, but offering tons of winter pleasure.



Drink now to 2025+

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### Allesverloren Red Muscadel 2013

Maturation setting in on appearance, becoming lighter with a copper tone. The nose shows inviting candied red fruit, toffee apple, Turkish delight aromas. The palate is intensely full, creamy and sugar-syrupy sweet, supported by a warming spirit.



Drink now to 2025+

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### Allesverloren Shiraz 2017

Resiny top notes with wine gums and herbal notes from stalks. Cherry, violets and spice follow. Hard acidity and tannins require further cellaring.



Drink 2023 to 2025.

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### Allesverloren Tinta Barocca 2017

Wild berries, aromatic spices and burly tannins are tempered by warming vanilla and rich coffee notes from oak élevage. Open knit and expressive for early enjoyment with grilled red meat, but will improve with further cellaring.



Drink now to 2024.



## Alto Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

Classy combination of New World ripeness and Old World savouriness on the 2014 under auspice of new winemaker Bertho van der Westhuizen. Tightly packed black fruits with vanilla and cigar box combine with capsicum, vine tomato and roasted origanum. The palate is becoming plush and luxurious, integrating the elements in complete harmony. Start enjoying now and well into the decade.



Drink now to 2025+

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## Alto Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

Entering a sleeping phase, the 2015 is looking brooding and very dark at the moment, lacking the brightness it had in youth. Black olive brine, liquorice, prunes and aged balsamic. Lots of structure and concentration on the palate still points to pedigree and promise.



Further cellaring advised.

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## Alto Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

Deep, rich and intense with great balance between structure and finesse. Fine grained tannins. Generosity of texture and depth.



Further cellaring advised.



## Alto Red Blend 2015

Emerging from hibernation, the 2015 is showing deep black fruit in harmony with rich oak spice. Toasted coconut, ripe blackberries and dark roast coffee. Modern, plush and opulent. The 2015 is now entirely ready to enjoy, but with legs for ageing too.



Drink now to 2025+

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## Alto Rouge 2013

Cabernet Franc dominance in the 2013 shows earthy, herbaceous perfume leading the flavour profile. Red fruit and minty spice held in a medium-bodied frame that is still grippy and very appetising. A great dinner companion.



Enjoy 2022 to 2025.

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## Alto Rouge 2014

Rich red and black fruit, candy confectionary, vanilla, coffee, baking spices and mulled fruit. Heady, warming palate has notable ripeness balanced by herbal notes. Creamy and expressive allowing present enjoyment, but the 2014 is also looking young and composed enough to put away for longer if desired.



Drink now to 2024+



## Alto Rouge 2015

Maturing nicely, with the plush, plummy fruit looking ripe, rich and quite opulent for Rouge. Packing lots of power and concentration with tightly packed dark fruit on the palate, framed by firm tannin structure. Makes a strong statement for the seriousness and ageability of the Alto Rouge. Dark chocolate with prunes and mint. In its drinking window for those looking for more fruit, yet certainly stable and worthy of cellaring.



Drink now to 2025.

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## Alto Rouge Magnum 2015

Maturing nicely, with the plush, plummy fruit looking ripe, rich and quite opulent for Rouge. Packing lots of power and concentration with tightly packed dark fruit on the palate, framed by firm tannin structure. Makes a strong statement for the seriousness and ageability of the Alto Rouge. Dark chocolate with prunes and mint. In its drinking window for those looking for more fruit, yet certainly stable and worthy of cellaring, especially in the magnum bottles.



Drink now to 2025+

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## Alto Rouge 2016

The 2016 is building up weight and structure in the bottle, showing less of the red fruited elegance it had in its youth, and now looking more serious and dark fruited, and less ready to open. Savoury flavour profile, grippy tannins and firm acidity requires further time in the cellar.



Drink 2022 to 2026.





## Alto Rouge 2017

Fresh red fruit flavours on the palate, backed-up by soft, elegant tannins. Long balanced finish. Will benefit with time in the cellar but already delicious.



Drink 2021 to 2026.

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## Alto Shiraz 2015

New World expression of Shiraz, the 2015 is bold and heady, and still working on integrating the new oak. Sweet mocha and charred oak over black fruit and roasting spices. Fleeshy, full palate that has a dry, olive powder-like tail, requiring more time to soften. Past its teenage phase, but still young, and will benefit from short term cellaring.



Drink 2022 to 2025.

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## Alto Shiraz 2016

Bold and spicy, leaping from the glass with varietal aromatics. Blackcurrant, roasting spices, pepper and violets, with toasty new oak (component American oak) in support. Full-bodied with savoury intensity, the modern, New World winemaking allows the wine to be expressive in youth but the powdery, drying tannins on the finish suggests allowing more time in the cellar.



Drink 2022 to 2026.



## Durbanville Hills Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

Starting to look a little deeper and fuller, revealing brooding dark fruit beneath the dusty, green notes. Still quite puckering and savoury, with the fruit muted. Best to cellar for a little longer.



Keep for two to three years.

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## Durbanville Hills Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

A little broader and already softer and more generous than the 2016, the 2017 is opening up. Cassis, spicy aniseed, capsicum and wood smoke. Dark fruit and chocolate on the palate still wrapped by firm, dry tannins. Clearly benefiting from cellaring, this is still on an upward maturation curve.



Keep for two to three years.

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## Durbanville Hills Collectors Reserve The Castle of Good Hope Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Looking better than last year, the 2018 is emerging from its clumsy infancy to reveal red and black fruit along with the typical herbal tones and a lick of sweet oak. Still too young with robust structure, but looking much more promising now.



Keep three to five years



## Durbanville Hills Collectors Reserve The Lighthouse Merlot 2017

Bramble, spiced macerated plums, smoke and chocolate. The palate shows its ripeness and spicity warmth, but also has ample fresh acid lift, energised fruit and grippy tannins. Back to higher alcohol and body after the much lighter 2016. Allow another year or two in the cellar to temper the acidity and mellow the fruit.



Enjoy 2022 to 2024.

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## Durbanville Hills Collectors Reserve The Promenade Pinotage 2016

A stylistic deviation for Durbanville Hills, more expressive of cool-climate origin and toeing the line with current preference for lighter Pinotages. Typical varietal indicators on the nose include wild blackberries, spices and tar, leading to savoury and grippy, yet lifted, palate with a dry, rustic finish that requires a little more cellaring.



Enjoy 2022 to 2026.

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## Durbanville Hills Collectors Reserve The Promenade Pinotage 2017

Step up from the classic range with more concentration and body, and showing the richness of the vintage. Wonderful blue fruit with exotic spices and butcher's smoker. Well-judged oaking provides sleek opulence, while the wine remains vibrant and fine. Plush and polished, entirely accessible and pleasant now, with ageing potential if desired.



Drink now to 2025.



## Durbanville Hills Merlot 2016

Plums, red berries, mint and vanilla. All captured in a medium-bodied frame with soft acidity and peppery, stalky influence. Creamy, seamless finish. Ready to drink, but also no need for haste.



Drink now to 2023.

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## Durbanville Hills Rhinofields Pinotage 2014

Super-ripe, bold and extracted, showing bramble jam, baked banana, coconut oil and coffee cake. Remaining composed and well-structured on the dense palate. For fans of full-bodied, rich Pinotage, the 2014 is entering its drinking window.



Enjoy comfortably over the next four years.

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## Durbanville Hills Rhinofields Pinotage 2015

More elegant than the 2014, and ageing beautifully, the 2015 has integrated the oak and now displays plums, blueberry, baking spices and wet earth in complete harmony. Even though it has opened up nicely and tasting generous at the moment, it has also remained composed and youthful, with an attractive, fine chalky grip that bodes well for food pairing.



Drink now to 2025.

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## Durbanville Hills The Tangram Red Blend 2012

The 2012 Tangram is maturing and starting to shed its boldness, looking more elegant with age, and returning to more earthy and typical Durbanville herbal flavour profile. Defining Bordeaux varietal graphite and capsicum notes combine with cassis and velvety oak. Soft and supple, this is starting to peak and drinking lovely now.



Drink now to 2025.



[www.fleurducap.co.za](http://www.fleurducap.co.za)

## Fleur du Cap Cabernet Sauvignon 2011

Black fruit, dark chocolate, bouquet garni and bitter liquorice. Good varietal character and intensity, firm medium-bodied with mouth-watering tannins that demand food. Long finish. Staggering value for money in this Cabernet Sauvignon that is still improving with age.



Enjoy over the next five years plus.

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## Fleur du Cap Cabernet Sauvignon 2013

Pleasant interplay between tea leaf and olive tapenade with dark chocolate and vanilla. Like other vintages in this range, the 2013 is ageing well and remarkably slowly. The structure remains linear and unyielding. Starting to approach a wide drinking window.



Drink 2021 to 2024.

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## Fleur du Cap Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

Pencil shavings, organum and redcurrants. Sound purity and balance on the palate, with the leaner herbal notes tempered by sweet vanilla from oak, and the tannins and acidity softened with bottle age. Ready to enjoy now, but no haste required.



Drink 2021 to 2024.



www.fleurducap.co.za

## Fleur du Cap Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

The 2015 is integrating well and looking rounder and more complete than its immediate predecessors. Cassis, mint chocolate, red bell pepper, cedar and even violets. Effortless harmony on the palate that is light and fragrant, yet finely structured with the ever-present savoury tannins on the long finish. Will improve further over short term.



Drink 2022 to 2025.

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## Fleur du Cap Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

Youthful, bright cassis and sour cherry combine with green tea and cranberry in this fruit driven Cabernet Sauvignon with typical Fleur du Cap lightness of touch and firm acidity. The palate is complemented by a touch of sweet vanilla from light oaking that offers a welcome richness to the otherwise grippy palate.



Drink 2022 to 2026.

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## Fleur du Cap Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

Broad and rich with more polish and approachable early. Blackcurrant and plums with just a layer of mint and softening milk chocolate from oak influence. Ready to drink now, but will no doubt develop a little more complexity with further ageing.



Drink now and over the next five plus years.



## Fleur du Cap Laszlo 2013

Inky core with a ruby red rim. The 2013 has woken from its slumber, weaving the fruit perfume with the more savoury, earthy elements and introducing subtle tertiary complexity. Black fruit pastilles, liquorice, tea leaf and mint, with wet clay and cloves from age. Boldly structured, layered and complex. Entering a wide drinking window.



Drink now plus five years.

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## Fleur du Cap Laszlo 2014

Concentrated, tightly packed dark fruit is impressively youthful and juicy. The firm structure is slowly yielding, releasing more generous, plush fruit with eucalyptus leaf spice and lots of new oak in support. Enveloping, mouth-coating tannins. Back to all Bordeaux varietals in the blend. Shines after seven years, already offering superb balance, and will improve further.



Drink 2022 to 2025 and beyond.

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## Fleur du Cap Laszlo 2015

Deep black fruit with liquorice pastille, tobacco, dark roast coffee, cocoa powder, and garrigue. The palate is crafty and polished, not requiring the long-term cellaring of other vintages, but also lots of structural polished tannins present to facilitate further development. Revealing perfectly ripe fruit, complemented by rich oak and herbal touches.



Drink now through to 2025 and beyond.



## Fleur du Cap Noble Late Harvest 2015

Impressive tightrope balance between rich concentration and punctuating acidity, and still as fresh as on release. Opulent botrytised characters of sundried peach and apricot with some impressive fresh tangerine peel and raw honey. The palate opens very sweet, yet stays remarkably moreish with balancing acidity that is mouth-watering and light at the same time. Positively delicious. Good long-term investment for future enjoyment.



Drink now plus 10 years.

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## Fleur du Cap Series Privée Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

The Fleur du Cap reserve wines have definitely entered a plusher phase with the introduction of the Series Privée label around 2015, and of course assisted by the concentration of the vintage. Quite forthcoming and New World in style, well supported by a spine of acidity. Clean and focused, and still very youthful too. Mellow, creamy finish signals drinking window opening, while the wine has the classy composure to last.



Drink now through to 2025 and beyond.

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## Fleur du Cap Series Privée Pinotage 2016

Successor to the Unfiltered, and in the same serious, full-bodied style. Sweet, opulent core of black cherry and plum supported by smoked meat and vanilla and nicely coiled by juicy acidity. Time in bottle has integrated the oak and softened the tannins, now offering lots of rich and expressive fruit right up to the sweet, creamy finish.



Drink 2021 to 2025.





www.fleurducap.co.za

## Fleur du Cap Shiraz 2017

Improved over the last 12 months, now offers more fruit harmony. Sweet fruit with peppery notes (from stalks influence) with vanilla to follow. Medium-bodied and commercial in style, made for casual early sipping, but with savoury spice and dry tannins to match grilled spicy meat.



Drink 2021 to 2024.

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## Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Cabernet Sauvignon 2011

Bold, expressive and unyielding, this deep and full Cabernet Sauvignon shapes from the glass and coats the palate. Seriously structured, opulent yet succulent, the 2011 vintage is dense and tannic, and still shows lots of primary fruit acidity and oak spice with only subtle tertiary complexity starting to unfold. Bitter chocolate and gun smoke on the finish. Impressive length.



Enjoy over the next five plus years.

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## Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Cabernet Sauvignon 2012

Less concentrated than the preceding vintages with more steely red fruit laced with attractive flint and herbal notes and a lively, juicy core. Presently quite lean and dusty, showing the cooler vintage in a lighter expression, yet by no means simple, and requires more time to show its optimum potential.



Drink 2022 to 2025+



### Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Cabernet Sauvignon 2013

Two bottles opened, both the same. Showing age, with slightly stewed pruny fruit, sweet coffee and coconut oil. It seems that the fruit is maturing and becoming flabby before the wine's structure softens. Best to drink soon.



Enjoy over the next year to three.

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### Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

Characteristic harmony between dark fruit and herbal notes, captured in a deep, serious structure. Richness in the core provided by new oak notes of dark caramel. Subtle hints of bottle age starting to emerge in olive tapenade and leather, but the palate still holds form and mouth-watering freshness.



Pleasant now, but will reward further cellaring.

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### Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Merlot 2014

Ripe and burly, boasting black plum, baked youngberries, mint chocolate and spicy Christmas cake all checked by soft tannins and a bold structure. What it lacks in elegance compared to some of the other vintages it makes up for in power. Completely open-knit and seamless now, the 2014 is in perfect drinking condition. No haste required.



Drink now to 2024.

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### Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Pinotage 2015

A full, robust, rich and spicy Pinotage with subtle toasted oak notes, impressive concentration and silky summer berry flavours. Entirely seamless and plush, while holding onto its savoury, tarry character that offsets the richness. In the early stage of its drinking window, still offering lots of fruit freshness with no more hard edges.



Drink now to 2025 and beyond.



## Jacobsdal Cabernet 2011

Opaque black core with a narrow garnet rim. The 2011 is still holding good composure, while now slowly reaching maturity. Dusty, dry tannins steeped in dark, ripe Cabernet Sauvignon fruit with black coffee, coconut oil, olives and pencil lead. Creamy finish.



Enjoy now to 2024.

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## Jacobsdal Cabernet 2012

Quite light in style with only 13% alcohol and modest oaking - a tip of the hat to more elegant Cape Cabernet Sauvignons of the 1960s and 1970s. Less concentration than other vintages, but benefiting with cellaring as expected, showing red fruit with herbal interest and steely grip. Persistent dusty tannins to finish. For fans of classically styled Cabernet Sauvignon. Can be enjoyed now, but probably still improving.



Enjoy now to 2025.

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## Jacobsdal Cabernet 2013

Bright, pure, juicy black fruit, stalky spice and alluring liquorice pastille undertones. Continues in the typical elegance of this range with gentle oaking, lifted acidity, and fine extraction. Fine, powdery tannic grip on the finish. Cellar to mellow and develop further complexity.



Drink 2021 to 2025.



## Jacobsdal Cabernet 2014

Leaner vintage of Jacobsdal Cabernet Sauvignon. Weighing in with just 13% alcohol, this is more overtly herbal and austere than earlier siblings. Firm acidity with chalky tannins, the 2014 should be decanted, or allowed another year or two of cellaring.



Drink 2022 to 2024.

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## Jacobsdal Pinotage 2011

Traditionally styled - smoked meat with berry jam and banana. Sweet fruited palate is countered by bitter, tarry notes and tangy acidity. The tannins remain dry, yet the fruit is maturing. Best to open over the next year or three.



Drink now to 2023.

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## Jacobsdal Pinotage 2013

The 2013 is similar to 2012 in its fruit-driven elegance, but maturing slightly faster. Pancetta, tea leaf, youngberry jam and wild spices. Pithy texture on the palate that is almost chalky and dry to finish makes the wine an exciting food partner. Enjoy at a few degrees cooler than bigger reds with oily, savoury dishes.



Drink now to 2024.

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## Jacobsdal Pinotage Magnum 2012

The 2012 Pinotage is ageing beautifully in magnum format. Remarkable retention of fruit and floral perfume with fresh, juicy grip. The key is no aggressive oak, soft extraction and firm acidity. Black fruit, spice, vanilla, sour cherry and violets. Inside a long drinking window. Can keep for longer, but drinking so well now.



Drink now to 2025+



## JC Le Roux Scintilla 2014

Cut limes with salt biscuits, sour rye and oyster shell. Minerality present on the palate, with tangy acidity and a bone-dry finish, lifted by fine bubbles. The Scintillas have the ability to age long term, but this is perhaps the best age to consume the 2014 while it still holds nervy freshness, complemented by developing savoury complexity.



Enjoy now and over next five plus years.



## Nederburg The Brew Master 2013

The 2013 surprises and rewards those who were patient with a new lease on life, revealing soft dark fruit and integrating the herbal notes in a well-rounded, mature frame. Still boasting full body and intensity, but entirely mature and ready to enjoy.



Drink over the next three years.

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## Nederburg The Brew Master 2014

Crafty harmony of luxurious fruit with herbal interest and integrated oak spice. The wine's perfume is expressive and bold, yet the structure is elegant and classical, having softened entirely into a velvety finish. Completely stable and ageing very slowly. Another smart example of a serious wine from this stable that currently offers drinking pleasure and also promises ageability.



Enjoy over the next five plus years.

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## Nederburg The Brew Master 2015

The 2015 is reaching perfect purity and harmony, looking plush and rich. A core of dense, perfectly ripe dark fruit that has power, but also the finesse of earlier vintages. Another authoritative Brew Master, showing continuity and the pedigree of this blend. The skill of these wines is in their approachability in their youth, but also proven cellar-worthiness.



Enjoy over the next five plus years.



### **Nederburg Cuvee Brut MCC 2013**

Crisp and dry occasional release MCC from Nederburg, blends Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in a harmonious bubbly with lively cut apple acidity still present, deepened by baked lemons and biscuity savoury notes and lifted on the finish by a good, firm mousse.



Drink now to 2023.

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### **Nederburg Edelrood 2015**

Blackberries, plums, vanilla and mixed herbs. The palate is a little dusty and dry in present form, having lost its initial vibrancy and looking a little shy. Allow a year or two.



Drink 2022 to 2024.

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### **Nederburg Manor House Cabernet 2015**

Developing ripe, brooding black fruit, prunes and roasted cashews, now weaving in with the pencil lead and flint. Possessing remarkable complexity and depth for the Manor House range. No doubt starting to mature, and entering drinking window.



Drink now to 2024.

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### **Nederburg Merlot 2018**

Consistently a cut-above simple everyday drinking. Juicy plums with peppermint and creamy vanilla. Still slightly leafy. Allow another year before opening.




Drink 2022 to 2024.



## Nederburg The Motorcycle Marvel Rhone Blend 2016

Exotic nose of mulberry, sweet lavender, rooibos and dark roast oak makes the 2016 stand out in a line-up. Carignan-driven blend with Rhône varietals. The palate is remarkably fresh after five years, showing mostly primary fruit with oak tannins in a medium body with mouth-watering tail. Requires more time.

 Enjoy 2023 to 2026.

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## Nederburg Shiraz 2017

Stalky, peppery intro, showing red fruit and coffee with some violets. Vibrant palate has lots of spice and drying grip that frames the fruit. Needs aeration if opened now, or allow short term cellaring.

 Drink 2022 to 2024.

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## Nederburg Two Centuries Cabernet Sauvignon 2012

Pure and defined, power and finesse. The inner Cabernet Sauvignon perfume is captivating, lifted by warming oak spice and heady alcohol. Concentrated, palate-staining dark fruit with dense tannins and bright, effortless acidity. Fairly polished in its fine craftsmanship, but these Cabernet Sauvignons all justify a decade in the cellar.

 Drink 2022 to 2027.





## Nederburg Two Centuries Cabernet Sauvignon 2013

Riper vintage gives bold concentration and palate intensity expressing a spectrum of rich dark fruit and warming sweet oak flavours of roasted chestnuts. Full and opulent to finish, with a porty, liqueur-like farewell. Already very generous, with a shorter shelf life than the 2011 and 2012 vintages and should be drunk first.



Drink now to 2024.

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## Nederburg Two Centuries Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

Continuing the riper, more modern phase of Two Centuries vintages, nothing held back with the 2014 with obvious rich oak, fruit extract and warming spirit. Powerful tension in the engine room, yet the frame has become sleek with time in bottle. Modern and expressive. Drink 2022 to 2025.



Drink 2022 to 2025.

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## Nederburg Two Centuries Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

Dense, bold and structured Cabernet Sauvignon from Paarl grapes has masculine power but not without finesse. Blackcurrants, kirsch, graphite, dark chocolate and oak spices all wrapped up in a layered palate that has gratifying sweetness in an energised core. Drink 2022 onwards.



Drink 2022 to 2025+

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## Nederburg Private Bin Two Centuries Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

Two Centuries returns to elegance with the pure 2017 that shows lively red fruit perfume along with deep black fruit structure and aromatic oak spice. Cassis, cherries, gun flint, cigar box and oak fire. Completely generous and delicious now, with promise for ageing too if you can resist drinking them.



Drink now plus 10 years.



## Plaisir de Merle Cabernet Sauvignon Magnum 2012

The 2012 is maturing beautifully in magnum format. Inky and rich, with harmony now achieved between ripe fruit, extract, and oak. Cassis, prunes, cigar box and milk chocolate with a dry, savoury core. Smart Cabernet Sauvignon.



Enjoy now, but no urgency required.

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## Plaisir de Merle Cabernet Sauvignon 2013

Dark fruit, leaf spice, black olive and liquorice with some supporting mocha notes from the new barrels. Maturing now, starting to show subtle porty notes with new leather and cloves. Heady, warming finish. Ready to drink.



Drink now to 2023.

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## Plaisir de Merle Cabernet Sauvignon Magnum 2014

Starting to reveal a wonderful inner perfume lift, the 2014 is showing lovely purity and composure within the plush Plaisir de Merle style. The palate is fresh yet soft, generous and completely accessible.



Drink now to 2025.

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## Plaisir de Merle Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

In the modern Plaisir de Merle style with opulent fruit and sleek tannins, but not without restraint and altogether very classy. Cassis, plums, cocoa and mint. Generous, plush and even a little sweet, with masterful polish that allows rewarding drinkability now, but no doubt ageable too.



Drink now to 2025.



www.plaisirdemerle.co.za

## Plaisir de Merle Cabernet Franc 2017

Upfront varietal characters of mint, capsicum and earth with juicy blackcurrant, pencil shavings and a hint of mocha. Muscular, but also fine, with a grippy, lingering finish that promises further improvement with age.



Drink 2022 to 2025.

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## Plaisir de Merle Grand Plaisir 2015

Big, bold, ripe and concentrated, New World expression of Bordeaux varietals. Reflecting the generosity of the vintage. Prominent new oak showing in chocolate eclairs and toasted vanilla. Velvety, opulent red that is generous, rich and ready to enjoy.



Drink now to 2025.

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## Plaisir de Merle Malbec 2015

Plum and blueberry jam aromas merge with a juicy, spirty palate that has less concentration and body than other Plaisir de Merle reds, but lots of fragrance. Beautifully plush and moreish. Delicious now, no need to cellar further but stable enough to keep if you can resist.



Drink now to 2024.

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## Plaisir de Merle Petit Plaisir 2016

Black pepper, mint and paprika support raspberry and plum aromas, introducing a savoury palate with mouth-watering acidity. Toasted vanilla from American oak aged component. Still a little chewy and phenolic, perhaps better in a year or two.



Drink 2022 to 2025.



## Stellenzicht GT Cabernet Magnum 2012

Eucalyptus leaf, black tea, wood smoke, camphor and bitter liquorice. The herbaceous character is dominant here, masking the fruit and not looking like it will release more fruit in the bottle. The 2012 is maturing in structure, becoming softer and rounded on the palate, yet retaining the dusty, capsicum flavour profile. Ready to enjoy with herb crusted roast lamb or vegetarian stews.



Drink now to 2024.

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## Stellenzicht The Vine Post Pinotage 2014

With good concentration and intensity, the Vine Post shows single vineyard focus in a generous, New World expression. Fleshy black plum and wild spices comfortably absorb the new oak that provides velvety dark chocolate and baked vanilla richness. Starting to show some subtle evolved, savoury notes too as it reaches maturity. Voluptuous and silky. Ready to drink.



Drink now to 2024.



### Uitkyk Carlonet Magnum 2013

Blackcurrant, liquorice, vanilla and herb roasted tomatoes. Good intensity. The palate has firm acidity with dusty tannic grip and fruit-derived phenolic structure. Typical to Carlonet it combines earthy elegance and broad structure. Good, persistent length. Although ageable, the 2013 is coming of age and will shine already now with full flavoured, hard cheeses.



Drink 2021 to 2025.



## Zonnebloem Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

The 2014 is peppery and juicy, probably a little lighter than other vintages and also a little simpler. Redcurrants and plum presence complementing the mint and sweet bell peppers. Prominent acidity offers a fresh, tangy finish. Effortless enjoyment now with composure to keep.



Drink now to 2024.

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## Zonnebloem Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

A clean, expansive nose offers lush red and black berries with the trademark pepperiness (influence from stalks) and well measured sweet vanilla notes from barrique. The 2016 seems a little richer and fuller, offering a broadness to the palate that will develop further in bottle.



Drink 2022 to 2026.

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## Zonnebloem Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

Ripe blackcurrant steeped in liqueur along with typical minty notes, all from Stellenbosch fruit. Roasted coffee from wood influence not yet integrated. Quite bold and masculine while very much still in a fledging stage. Solid varietal expression that will unlock more potential with further cellaring.



Drink 2023 to 2027.



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## Zonnebloem Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Best of the recent vintages, the 2018 explodes with juicy fruit exuberance and wonderful harmony on the seamless palate. Typically light of touch (13,5% ABV), true to style, and most accessible at youth. Red fruit, potpourri, mint and spice. Delicious.



Drink now plus five years.

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## Zonnebloem Laureat 2013

The 2013 Zonnebloems are maturing and should be moved to the front of the cellar. Fairly delicate and earthy in its DNA, the Laureat 2013 has softened its tannins and acidity and lacks the stuffing to keep long term.



Drink now to 2023.

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## Zonnebloem Laureat 2015

Well-rounded approachability and balance on display in the 2015, presenting all the flavour pointers of this blend in a plush and polished frame. Blackcurrant, pencil lead and tobacco. Full and deep, with typical acid spine. Offering full flavour intensity without any hardness, the 2015 is delicious now and can also easily keep for longer.



Drink now to 2025+

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## Zonnebloem Limited Cabernet Sauvignon 2013

The 2013 Limited Edition is starting to show signs of maturity, showing baked black figs, forest floor and leather. The palate is soft and deep, still holding some herbaceous, savoury grip and spice, and finishing supple. Enjoy within the three year drinking window.



Drink now to 2023.



## Zonnebloem Merlot 2017

Juicy plum, capsicum and sweet vanilla. Lively, bright and moreish, with an accessible medium-bodied palate and mouth-watering, persistent finish.



Drink now to 2025+

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## Zonnebloem Pinotage 2014

Smoky high notes are followed by the typical lively fruit that is expected from this range, with structure and complexity that overdelivers at the price. Mulberry, red plums, liquorice and bacon kips. Medium-bodied. Still quite tart and meaty, although the tannins are now soft and ripe.



Drink now to 2024.

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## Zonnebloem Pinotage 2015

Cherry and porty. Not in good shape, showing stewed, briny characters. Slightly oxidised bottle?



Drink now.

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## Zonnebloem Pinotage 2018

Packing ample fruit intensity with juicy plum, violets, blueberry and mint chocolate. Already offering moreish appeal and harmony on the plush, velvety palate. No need to cellar further, while it does also hold lots of promise.



Drink now to 2025+





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## Zonnebloem Shiraz 2016

Medium-bodied, smoky Shiraz has black fruit, stalky spice and bacon kips. The 2016 vintage is savoury and dry, and still a little closed. Allow short term cellaring.



Drink 2022 to 2024.

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## Zonnebloem Shiraz Mourvedre Viognier 2016

Well-orchestrated steely spice and dark fruit from Syrah, savoury meaty notes from Mourvèdre and light floral lift from Viognier. Sweet fruited core. Creamy palate laced with bright acidity. Ready to decant and enjoy with peppered beef fillet.



Drink now to 2025.

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## Zonnebloem Shiraz Mourvedre Viognier 2017

Full and rich with a complex combination of berry flavours and spices, gentle tannins and integrated wood flavours.



Drink now to 2025.

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A well-balanced wine collection should consist of wine available for immediate consumption, and a selection in reserve for future enjoyment.

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Established in 1984, the Vinotèque Wine Bank is part of the historic Bergkelder winery located on the outskirts of Stellenbosch. It offers members a private cellar in which to cellar and mature the wines they purchase from the Vinotèque under optimal conditions.

Members enjoy access to a number of benefits, including a superb range of wines, private members tasting room, annual maturation reports, a gift service and free delivery to your door.

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