



- **Country:** South Africa
- **Region:** Coastal Region
- **Subregion:** Stellenbosch
- **Vintage:** 2018
- **Colour:** Red
- **Grape Variety:** Merlot
- **ABV:** 14.5%
- **Bottle Size:** 75cl
- **Closure:** Screwcap
- **Style:** Structured but approachable
- **Drink With:** Mushroom and Stilton pie

GERRARD SEEL: WINE MERCHANTS TO THE TRADE SINCE 1984

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GLENELLY GLASS COLLECTION MERLOT

<https://gerrardseel.co.uk/products/glenelly-glass-collection-merlot>

Glenelly Glass Collection Merlot is a deep, richly coloured wine. It displays intense, dark fruit and spicy plum aromas, reminiscent of a Black Forest Gateaux. This Merlot shows tremendous concentration, richness and generous fruit on the palate, with fine but well balanced tannins to embrace it all.

The grapes were hand sorted and lightly crushed into stainless steel fermentation tanks. After alcoholic fermentation, the wine was placed into French oak barrels to undergo malolactic fermentation. Glenelly Glass Collection Merlot was matured for 12 months in French oak and racked, on average, every four months.

ABOUT THE GROWER

On the southern slopes of the Simonsberg Mountain, in the Ida's Valley of Stellenbosch, lies the Glenelly Estate. In 1682, Cape Governor Simon Van Der Stel ceded the land on which the Glenelly Estate now stands to a French Huguenot, François Villion. In 1812, the estate passed to Johan Peter de Villiers, and finally in 1911 it became the property of a British family, the Garlicks. They owned it for 92 years until, in 2003, Glenelly was bought by May-Eliane de Lencquesaing. For over 30 years, Madame de Lencquesaing had been the owner of the classed growth Bordeaux Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in Pauillac. Her belief in the quality of the Cape's terroir, her wish to play a role in the economic development of the newly democratic country and her desire to continue the three century heritage of French winemaking in South Africa all played a part in her decision to embark upon a new adventure.

The 123 hectare Glenelly Estate was formerly devoted to fruit production, but after an intensive study of the soil structure and weather patterns by Madame de Lencquesaing, 54.5 hectares were planted with red grape varieties and 5.5 hectares were given to white varieties. A small remainder was planted with olive trees and the rest remained as forest. There are 5 main red grape varieties grown at Glenelly: Cabernet Sauvignon for its structure; Syrah for the fineness of red fruit aromas and flavours; Petit Verdot to bring complex notes of liquorice and violets to a blend; Merlot giving freshness and fruity notes; and finally Cabernet Franc to pair with the Merlot, giving an almost Pomerol-style character to certain wines.

A new, gravity fed winery was completed in 2009, and everything is done in as natural and as environmentally friendly a manner as possible - even the concrete used for its construction was coloured in ochre tones to match the surrounding soils!