



Written by
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South African excitement - the rest



Yesterday we published a collection of tasting notes on 184 South African reds and the day before an account of a very special corner of the Cape wine map. Today it is the turn of arguably the most interesting category of South African wines, the whites, together with a few pinks and sweet wines and some of the best sparkling wines, those made by the traditional method, here called MCC, or *méthode cap classique*. There is a grand total of 200 tasting notes below. Did I really taste only about 370 wines while in South Africa? It felt like far more than that.

On this trip I tasted just one fortified wine but was impressed by how well the fizzes were made, even if few of them had the real depth of extended lees contact and some seemed a little on the sweet side to my taste.

Pink wines don't seem to be a huge feature of the Cape wine scene but I was so impressed by one of them that it is today's wine of the week.

But the most exciting wine style in South Africa is still dry whites (however much the reds have improved). Australia, and to a certain extent Chile, may have been catching up fast recently but for many years South Africa had the cool-but-characterful Chardonnay field all to itself, and the best wines aged beautifully. Then came an ocean of fine Sauvignon Blancs, drier than the Marlborough style and mostly without the whiffs of canned asparagus and body odour that I for one find less than attractive. Although the wines are very varied, often include some Sémillon (Sémillon having a long and important history in the Cape) and may well be oaked, South African Sauvignons are generally dry, interesting and refreshing without being at all skinny. A few dozen producers make varietal Sémillons, more of them oaked than not, and these are definitively South African wines, much richer than the Hunter Valley style. A darker-skinned Sémillon known as Sémillon Gris (occasionally also Sémillon Rose) is currently the height of fashion among the young-gun wine producers listed below.

Chenin Blanc is the most planted variety of either colour in South Africa and one of the winelands' great strengths is its rich heritage of older bushvines. The white wines described in [South Africa's wild north west](#) are all made from senior Chenins and Sémillons grown in this corner of the wine map but there is a huge array of Chenin styles, from unwooded wines for early drinking to ambitious oaked wines designed for a long life, some of them relatively rich. There are also old-vine examples of the likes of Clairette, Grenache Blanc and Palomino and other interesting relics of Cape history. Quarantine regulations are very strict but growers may now choose from imports such as Roussanne and Viognier.

The new debut release from the Jackson Family (Kendall Jackson), Capensis Chardonnay, in which queen of the vines Rosa Kruger plays a part, is expected to break some price records but, this apart, I have yet to encounter a South African white I felt was overpriced. This is bargain heaven and for the sake of the future of the South African wine industry, its farmers and its farmworkers, we all ought to be paying more for the Cape's best wines. (There is still some pretty dreary stuff produced for the world's supermarkets' bargain bins.)

One of my heaviest tasting sessions was at the usefully air-conditioned wine store in the middle of wine country outside Stellenbosch, [Vineyard Connection](#). This is the place that specialises in shipping wine purchases back to tourists' homes. The picture shows the notice they hang on their door when such tastings take place in their tasting room with its great views over the vineyards. Mind you, we visited barely a place without a stunning view.

As I did with yesterday's tasting article, I provide below for those who would like a shortcut, names of the young guns whose wines I had the pleasure of tasting. (Some of them may produce only red wine.) Of course the boundary between a young gun and an old hand is extremely blurred. Porseleinberg, for instance, is the Swartland branch of the Boekenhoutskloof operation, which is part of the well-funded Vinimark group which also includes Reyneke, South Africa's only certified biodynamic producer run on thoroughly philosophical lines. Cape of Good Hope is part of the hugely well-funded Antonij Rupert Wyne group. Paardebosch is an established Swartland winery acquired by a couple of shrewd businessmen but now run by David and Nadia Sadie (no relation to Eben) of the David label. The talented Charles Back of Fairview is the man behind Fairview and Spice Route and was one of the first mainstream producers to buy fruit in and north of Swartland, using some of it for some of the wines produced by these two adjacent wineries offering a particularly rewarding tourist experience (along with the unrelated La Motte and Antonij Rupert, whose facilities for tourists were also highly recommended to me). Radford Dale also make some all-Swartland wines.

Interesting young(ish) guns

Adi Badenhorst, Alheit, Blackwater, Botanic (Mary Delany Collection), Clayton, Crystallum, David, Dean David, Fledge & Co, The Foundry, Fram, Hughes Family, Kloof Street (Mullineux's second label), Intellego, Richard Kershaw, Lammershoek, Leeuwenkuil, Lismore, Bryan MacRobert, J H Meyer Signature, Momento, Mount Abora, Mount Sutherland, Mullineux, Paardebosch, Painted Wolf, Porseleinberg, Rall, Restless River, Reverie (Cape of Good Hope's second label), Sadie Family Wines, Savage, Sequillo (another Eben Sadie operation), Silwervis, Storm, Testalonga, Thorne & Daughters, Tierhoek, The Three Foxes, Trizanne and J C Wickens (own label of Adi Badenhorst's winemaker).

Wines are listed in alphabetical order by producer (sur)name, so they are thoroughly mixed up by location of vineyard(s), but so many producers still acquire their fruit from far and wide. Most of them were tasted while I was in South Africa recently, but they are supplemented by some notes made at the generic Beautiful South tasting in London last September.

WHITE

- *Alheit, Cartology 2013 Western Cape* 88% *Chenin Blanc*, 12% *Sémillon*. *Blended from different parcels of dry-farmed bush vines scattered all over the Cape (some 5 ½ hours away), with the aim of making the best wine possible from these heritage varieties.*
Honey. Tension. Real grip! Thorough and long. 14% Drink 2014-2019
17.5
- *Almenkerk Chardonnay 2013 Elgin* Very light nose. Rather timid but nicely balanced with a bit of lees influence. Menthol and well mannered. 13.5% Drink 2015-2017
16
- *Ataraxia Chardonnay 2013 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge* Very cool and fresh with just an edge of something funky. Reminds me more of Chablis than anything else. Should age well. 13.66% Drink 2015-2020
Imported by Bancroft Wines (UK) 16.5
- *A A Badenhorst 2013 Coastal Region* 35% *Chenin Blanc*, 9% *Roussanne*, 7% *Clairette*, 2% *Chardonnay*, 9% *Viognier*, 1% *Grenache Blanc*, 7% *Grenache Gris*, 8% *Verdelho*, 2% *Sémillon*, 5% *Palomino*. *They get fruit from just over the Swartland boundary on Paardeberg, and Voor-Paardeberg in Paarl.*
Tense and floral and very lively. 13.5% Drink 2016-2020
17
- *A A Badenhorst 2012 Coastal Region* 30% *Chenin Blanc*, 23% *Roussanne*, 10% *Chardonnay*, 10% *Viognier*, 10% *Grenache Blanc*, 5% *Colombard*, 5% *Grenache Gris*, 3% *Verdelho*, 2% *Sémillon*, 2% *Palomino*. *Clarified naturally. 10 months in concrete vats.*
Gentle, honeyed. 13.5% Drink 2015-2017
16.5
- *A A Badenhorst, CWG Kalmoesfontein Dassiekop Steen 2012 Swartland* *Auctioned in 2014. Quite a bit of this wine ends up in the Family White Blend.*
Dense and savoury. Lovely texture and satin stuff. Salty and perfect balance. 13.5% Drink 2014-2022
17.5
- *A A Badenhorst Muscat 2013 Swartland* *Fermented on the skins.*
Chewy after three weeks on the skins. Naturally lots of tannin. Floral. Drink 2014-2015
15.5
- *A A Badenhorst, Secateurs Chenin Blanc 2014 Swartland* *Screwcaps. They do three bottlings; this is the second and therefore a bit richer than the first. Some fruit bought in from their*

neighbours. Fermented in concrete and old vats. RS 4.1 g/l (all of his Secateurs Chenins are between 3.5 and 4.5 g/l.)

Almost fat. Just a little lacking freshness. 13.5% Drink 2014-2015

15.5

- *A A Badenhorst, Secateurs Chenin Blanc 2013 Swartland 100% Chenin Blanc, fermented on the skins.*

Exciting, honeyed and fab value. Great freshness. **GV** 13% Drink 2014-2016

16.5

- *Beaumont, Hope Marguerite Chenin Blanc 2013 Bot River RS 7.3 g/l. TA 6.4 g/l. Vines planted in 1978.*

Cool and with some sweetness – very, very different structure to most. More Loire-like and cooler than the SA norm. The impression is more middle-Loire lightness. Pure middle-Loire flavours. Tangy. 12.6% Drink 2015-2020

Imported by Dreyfus Ashby and Co (UK), Vincisive (UK) 17

- *Graham Beck, Pheasants' Run Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Groenekloof Cool and refreshing. Very neat and well balanced. Real raciness to this. Super refreshing. Pretty. 14.29% Drink 2015-2016*

Imported by Bibendum (UK) 16.5

- *Bellingham, The Bernard Series Hand Picked Viognier 2014 Coastal Region From three sites: Elgin, Voor Paardeberg and Somerset West.*

Rather pale-flavoured on the nose and a bit low in acid on the palate. Then chewy. A very distinctive take on Viognier! 13.5% Drink 2015-2016

Imported by DGB Europe 16

- *Bellingham, The Bernard Series Old Vine Chenin Blanc 2014 Coastal Region Not on the label, but the fruit is from Agter Paarl, Durbanville, Bottelary and Helderberg. 200 cases of each Bernard Series bottling!*

Stinky nose, spontaneous yeast. Big and bold – frustrating to be given so few clues on the label as to provenance of the fruit! Rich and opulent underneath. 14% Drink 2015-2019

Imported by DGB Europe 16.5+

- *Bellingham, The Bernard Series Whole Bunch Grenache Blanc/Viognier 2014 Paarl Grenache from Agter Paarl. Single-site Viognier from Voor Paardeberg.*

Very pale. Watery look but very cool and well-handled fruit. Delicate. Very refreshing and not at all heavy considering these varieties. Chewy end. 14% Drink 2016-2018

Imported by DGB Europe 16.5

- *Bellingham, The Bernard Series Whole Bunch Roussanne 2014 Paarl Fruit from Agter Paarl and Voor Paardeberg.*

Lightly honeyed and very varietal. Fresh and scented. Not at all heavy. Varietal and precise. 14% Drink 2016-2018

Imported by DGB Europe 16.5

- *Bellingham, The Old Orchards Chenin Blanc 2013 Paarl 8% was matured in old French oak barrels.*

Deep coppery gold with good medium-weight, sufficient acidity and tension that the RS of 4.5 g/l is fairly well hidden. Something a little floral about this. Holds its alcohol well. Lightly chewy on the end. 14% Drink 2015-2017

16

- *The Berrio Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Elim First Elim brand was a partnership between Bruce Jack and Francis Pratt. Now fully owned and made by Pratt.*

Quite aggressively fruity (selected yeast?) on the nose. Broad and flashy but at the moment strongly marked by fermentation aromas – NZ style? Off dry. Not especially distinctive. 12.5% Drink 2015-2016

15

- **The Berrio, The Weathergirl 2014 Elim** Sauvignon/Sémillon blend. Reductive nose and then lots of broad fruit. Some real weight to this. Promising. 13% Drink 2015-2018

16+

- **Black Oystercatcher Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Elim** Very fresh, lively, pretty Sauvignon with a dry finish. Racy and chalky on the finish. Not that much concentration but very appetising and well balanced. 12.5% Drink 2014-2015

16

- **Black Oystercatcher, White Pearl 2012 Elim** Sémillon/Sauvignon Blanc. A little hard and fruitless. Not sure what Sémillon brings to the party here. 13% Drink 2014-2015

15.5

- **Boekenhoutskloof Semillon 2012 Franschhoek** *Jean Smit started as winemaker in 2008. This is from one block of 5 ha of which half is already 112 years old. 2012 is 25% spontaneous fermentation (cf 2010 and 2001 which was 0%). One quarter in concrete eggs. Cool fermentation. Cool ageing in new barrels but also given tank and bottle age (they are suppressing MLF). No bâtonnage and low sulphur. They blend in 5% Sauvignon Blanc from the next vintage for acid and length.*

Quite a floral nose. Tight and green with some beeswax. Low acid. But good tension. 12.75% Drink 2018-2025

Imported by New Generation Wines (UK) 17

- **Boekenhoutskloof Semillon 2010 Franschhoek** Pale gold, this smelt more evolved than the 2004 version served alongside! In fact it was so evolved it seemed almost as though there were some decay on the finish, with strong beeswax notes. Off dry and a little soft. Drink 2012-2016

16

- **Boekenhoutskloof Semillon 2004 Franschhoek** Stunningly fresh and vibrant, even at 11 years old. Very lively with good acidity. Great balance with some honeysuckle aromas. After time in the glass it developed a little oiliness. 13% Drink 2010-2019

17

- **Howard Booysen Riesling 2011 Paarl** Pretty mature and developed, with a little sweetness but pure and correct. More of that tangerine-skin flavour that I have found in many a South African white! Very slightly phenolic. Drink 2013-2016

16

- **Boschendal Chardonnay 2013 Elgin** Delicate and lively. Lots of freshness and vitality though no richness. Racy. Just a tad pale. And sweet! Notes of wet stones on the end. 14% Drink 2015-2018

Imported by DGB Europe 16

- **Boschendal Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Coastal Region** Rather ordinary yeast-loaded tight Sauvignon. Competent but not distinctive. 13.5% Drink 2015-2016

16

- **Boschendal Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Elgin** Very pale. Light and slightly vegetal. Dry end and racy. Well put together. Very appetising and green. 13.5% Drink 2015-2017

Imported by DGB Europe 16.5

- **Bosman, Optenhorst Chenin Blanc 2012 Wellington** *62-year-old vineyard. 'We believe Wellington and especially Bovlei Valley will be renowned for the quality of its Chenin', says winemaker Corlea Fourie.*

Mid gold. Big and slightly bruised fruit. Lacks acid for my palate, I'm afraid. Maybe the fruit is great but it's a little boiled out in this wine. 13.5% Drink 2013-2015

Imported by Hatch Mansfield (UK) 15.5

- **Bouchard Finlayson, Missionvale Chardonnay 2012 Hemel-en-Aarde Valley** Clear pale gold.

Strangely muted nose. Sweet, gently crafted palate with some development and lots of charm (and alcohol). Not one of the most savoury - lightly sweetish, thanks to the alcohol. It's just a shame there isn't more aromatic complexity. I wonder whether it's a bottle thing? 14% Drink 2014-2018

16

- Cape Point Vineyards, Isliedh 2013 Cape Point 82% Sauvignon Blanc, 18% Sémillon Racy, and skinnier than their Sauvignon Blanc Reserve. This vintage is lifted, steely, somewhat austere but very appetising. 14% Drink 2015-2019

17

- Cape Point Vineyards, Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Cape Peninsula 92% Sauvignon Blanc, 8% Sémillon, matured in old 600-litre casks. Interesting vegetal notes on the nose. Very different from most Cape Sauvignons with real lift and interesting underneath. Rich and layered. Complete, savoury and salty. Sophisticated. Really tense and exciting. Very cool with refined fruit. What's not to like? Wet stones and tangerine peel. Long. 13.5% Drink 2015-2018
£18.50 Swig 17

- Cape Point Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Cape Peninsula Rather heavier than I remember previous vintages - seems almost rich, but with sufficient acidity. As though some broadening, deepening cellar technique had been essayed. Rather Pessac-Léognan style. Drink 2015-2018

16

- Cederberg Wines Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Cederberg Ghost Corner range also. 1,036 m elevation. Cool nights - 10-12 °C average. No viruses, no spraying. Pale greenish straw. Herbal nose. Lots of lime and undergrowth. Super fresh. Very long. Already approachable. Lots of ripe flavours but only 2.4 g/l RS. 13% Drink 2015-2017 Imported by Bancroft (UK), Banks Channel (USA) 16.5

- Chamonix Chardonnay 2013 Franschoek Correct and sleek, with lots of green fruit. Tight and polished. 13.5% Drink 2014-2017

16.5

- Chamonix, Reserve 2013 Franschoek 55% Sauvignon Blanc, 45% Sémillon. Tight and vigorous. Lovely. 13.5% Drink 2015-2019

16

- Chamonix, Reserve Chardonnay 2013 Franschoek Spends 14 months in barrel, and 10% is matured in Nomblot eggs (concrete tanks).

Really racy, long and finishes appetisingly. Zingy. 13.5% Drink 2016-2020

16.5+

- Clayton Wines, Jolly Roger Chardonnay 2013 Swartland Really rather innocuous, and with a strange menthol nose. Clean but dull otherwise. 13% Drink 2014-2016

15.5

- Craven Clairette 2014 Stellenbosch Unfined and unfiltered but alone of the Craven wines I have tasted, this one is (stylishly) labelled.

Not quite clear pale gold. Honeyed nose with some life to it and then there is a bit of fruit on the palate even if quite a bit of astringency on the palate too. Quite fun for an occasional drink though a little hard and harsh for everyday drinking. I wonder how early the fruit was picked? Good for those watching their alcohol intake. 11% Drink 2014-2015

15.5

- Craven, Skin Fermented Clairette 2014 Stellenbosch Skin fermented. I'm delighted to try this rare varietal Clairette Blanche. Not quite clear pale gold. Some real life and spicy fruit on the nose but on the palate - again for this producer - there just isn't any fruit. Hard end. Drink 2014

14

- Creation Wines, Art of Chardonnay 2013 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley Ambitious name! Sweet start and nice satiny texture. Hint of pineapple jujubes and then herbs and mint. Lots there even if it's not the subtlest. 13.5% Drink 2015-2018
16
- Creation Wines Chardonnay 2013 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley Youthful, well-made cool climate Chardonnay on the nose with some chalky attractiveness on the palate. 14% Drink 2016-2019
£16.99 SA Wines Online 16
- Crystallum, Clay Shales Chardonnay 2014 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge Spontaneous interesting nose and very dry, punctilious savoury wine. Well done! Lots of integrity. Great balance. Drink 2016-2020
16.5+
- Jean Daneel, Signature Chenin Blanc 2012 Western Cape A blend from Stellenbosch, Perdeberg and Malmesbury with 5 g/l RS. In barrel for a year. Deep gold. The most reductive of the lot. Lots of impact on the front palate - golden and rich but far from simple. Quite a bit of bâtonnage influence. Good acidity as well as the richness. Lots to get your teeth into. 13.5% Drink 2015-2019
16.5
- De Grendel, Koetshuis Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Coastal Region Cool nose and some green but also some sweetness. Not quite refreshing nor rapier-like enough but certainly very competently made. 13% Drink 2014-2015
Imported by Kingsland Wines & Spirits (UK) 15.5
- DeMorgenon, DMZ Chenin Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch Fruit from 3 vineyards. Fermented in tank and spends six months on the lees. Racy and clean (though not fruity). 13.5% Drink 2014-2016
15.5
- DeMorgenon, Reserve Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch East-facing vines planted in 1972 on granite. Fruit picked at different ripeness levels. 90% of the blend is aged in barrel, with 25% new oak. Notable, well-integrated acidity (because of the granite? Or the small proportion of botrytis?). Very spicy and confident. Sleek and satisfying. Serious stuff. Exciting. Floral. Long. 14% Drink 2015-2021
17
- DeMorgenon, Maestro 2013 Stellenbosch 37% Chenin Blanc, 24% Chardonnay, 24% Roussanne, 15% Viognier (very early picked). Slightly vague, but fresh, concentrated and chewy. Slightly dull. 14% Drink 2014-2016
16
- De Trafford Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch Upper Blaauwklippen Valley. Fine, fresh and intense nose. Mushroomy and interesting. As good as the Keermont white blend. 13.9% Drink 2015-2020
£20 RRP (imported by Bibendum (UK), Boutique Wine Collection (USA)) 17
- De Trafford Chenin Blanc 2003 Stellenbosch 5-ha vineyard. They also buy in fruit from Keermont and Post House. Very good vintage for long-term ageing. Pale greenish straw. Old wet-wool nose - echt! Lively and muscular and very mature and interesting. Slightly dry on the end. Warm finish after chewy palate. 13.9% Drink 2007-2018
Imported by Bibendum (UK), Boutique Wine Collection (USA) 16
- De Wetshof, Bateleur Chardonnay 2011 Robertson Limestone dominated. He has deliberately brought older vintages. Both wines are single-vineyard wines from 2-3 tons/ha because the vines are nearly 30 years old. Clone brought by Jan Boland from Burgundy, citrus-driven. pH of these limestone soils can be above 8.5. All new barrels.

Racy nose suggests some lees stirring. (They stir every week for the first few weeks until the yeast gets fluffy. Then once a month.) Tight and dry. Not quite enough fruit. Chewy and a bit austere on the finish. Very competent even if not thrilling. Emirates bought the lot!12.98% Drink 2014-2018

Imported by Ellis of Richmond (UK) 16

- De Wetshof, The Site Chardonnay 2009 Robertson *The winemaker is Pieter de Wet. Phil Friese consults. Volcanic-slate-dominated vineyard. The wine was kept on the lees until October without sulphur. Dijon clone. Winemaking has lightened up since Pieter joined in 2007. This was the first vintage renamed The Site from d'Honneur to denote new style.*
Pale greenish gold. A bit richer on the nose than the Bateleur. Round and rewarding still even if more refined than the old style. A bit of warmth on the finish but an admirable long-lived South African Chardonnay.13.96% Drink 2013-2018
Imported by Ellis of Richmond (UK) 16.5
- Delaire Graff Chenin Blanc 2013 Swartland *Below Badenhorst's property. Vines are 30 to 40 years old. The grapes were whole bunch pressed with no sulphur added and barrel fermented for 14 days. Maturation took place in 400-litre 25% new French barrels for 10 months. No bâtonnage or malolactic fermentation. RS under 2g/l.*
Dense, savoury, meaty fruit with real confidence. Nothing pretty and honeyed about this – it's a mensch! Firm spine. Hint of pine even. Really interesting.13.5% Drink 2015-2020
17
- Delaire Graff, Unwooded Old Bush Vine Chenin Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch *Fruit from three different sites picked at different ripeness levels.*
Pale greenish gold. Sweet, relatively simple, commercial nose. Rich start to the palate (much more interesting than the nose although there is still a bit of fermentation aroma). Medium weight. A pleasant, bone-dry aperitif.13% Drink 2015-2018
16
- Diemersdal, MM Louw Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Durbanville *Pale gold. Smells of gum and coolish Marsanne! Interesting wine with lots to offer. Not the leanest nor the coolest but still very refreshing and with great layers of flavour. Long.* 13.63% Drink 2015-2017
17
- Dom des Dieux Chardonnay 2011 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge *Very sulphidey nose. A tad sour and phenolic on the palate. Trying very hard but a little bit too stolid.* 13.65% Drink 2014-2018
15.5
- Fable Mountain Vineyards, Jackal Bird 2013 Western Cape *Chenin, Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, about 1% Chardonnay from Elgin and a little Viognier.*
Nicely balanced, well-knit blend. Fresh and relatively simple. Sweet pear flavours. Just a hint of acidification (just a little at crush). Trying to keep wine quite tight.13% Drink 2016-2018
15.5+
- Fable Mountain Vineyards, Jackal Bird 2012 Western Cape *Chenin, Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, about 1% Chardonnay from Elgin and a little Viognier.*
Broad start on the nose but nicely tight on the end. Smoky finish. Current release. Long and rich but not fat on the end. Good balance.13% Drink 2015-2017
16
- The Fledge & Co, Klipspringer Chenin Blanc 2013 Swartland *From Nuwedam high on the granitic Paardeberg. Vines planted in the late 1970s.*
Lots of lime essence. Quite a bite to this wine. Masses of personality, and a little bit of phenolic bite on the end. No hurry to drink. Grows in the glass.12.5% Drink 2016-2020
16.5+
- Ken Forrester, The FMC Chenin Blanc 2012 Stellenbosch *Vines planted 1974. RS 10 g/l. pH 3.21, TA 7 g/l.*

Much more savoury than most on the nose, despite the residual sugar. A hint of varnish. Far from opulent. Very different from the norm. Still quite chewy. I'd like a little more obvious acidity...!13.5% Drink 2017-2022

Imported by Enotria (UK) 16.5

- Ken Forrester Roussanne 2012 Stellenbosch10-year-old vines from those brought in by Rustenberg. Next to the farm. Sandy soils, 8 km from ocean so nice and windy and no great problem with Roussanne here. Mostly old 400-litre barrels, wild yeasts.
Some richness on the palate and the herbal Roussanne quality on the nose. 13.5% Drink 2014-2016
Imported by Enotria (UK), USA Wine Imports (USA, Ken Forrester' own company) 16.5
- The Foundry Grenache Blanc 2013 Voor PaardebergCrystal-clear pale greenish straw. Clean, crisp, floral nose. Much livelier than many a Grenache Blanc. Just a hint of chew at the end to give it structure. Very appetising, Clearly work has been put in to combat this grape's occasional heaviness though the granite soils of the Voor Paardeberg may well have done all the work. 13.38% Drink 2014-2017
Imported by Dreyfus Ashby (UK) 16.5
- Fryer's Cove Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Bamboes BayRather exotic nose. Savoury, salty. Bring on the surf! Solid but refreshing. 13.5% Drink 2014-2016
Imported by Ahwas (DK), KoRoVa (BE), Z Wines (USA) 16.5
- Glenelly Chardonnay 2013 Stellenbosch2009 was the first vintage of all Glenelly's own reds, 2010 was the first white vintage. Winemaker Heinrich Loew used to work at Rustenberg, and Angelus, and Fieuzal and Screaming Eagle. Ambient yeast, barrel fermented.
Pale greenish gold. Quite broad and very fruity but with attractive finish. Good balance and lively wet-stony finish. Just the job. 13.1% Drink 2015-2019
Imported by Seckford Agencies (UK), Cape Classics (USA) 16.5
- Reverie Chenin Blanc 2013 SwartlandPrivate enterprise of Jacques de Klerk, winemaker at Winery of Good Hope. A little bit more conventional than many (although admittedly I have just been tasting Craig Hawkins' wines!). Clean, well-balanced Chenin though less obviously Swartland than some. Clean and just off dry. Already polite and well behaved. Although a little astringency suggests there's a future too.12.2% Drink 2015-2018
Imported by Edmond Wines (UK) 16
- Groot Parys, Amfora Chenin Blanc 2014 PaarlAmphora aged this time. Greenish pale gold. Not much nose - just a light liquorice touch. Then a tad sour on the end but there is some fruit in the middle and some pungency. Impressively persistent. Seems only lightly amphora'ed but to good effect. 14.47% Drink 2015-2016
16
- Groote Post, Kapokberg Sauvignon Blanc 2013 DarlingColourless. Loose and formless. 13.5% Drink 2015-2016
Imported by Hayward Brothers (UK), Terry Seitz (USA) 15.5
- Groot Parys, Spontane Gisting Chenin Blanc 2014 PaarlAmbient yeast. No marked funkiness on the nose but a slight lack of vitality on the palate. Fruit seems to have been dragged through the mud a bit.12.34% Drink 2015
15
- Teddy Hall, Doreen Sauvignon Blanc 2014 StellenboschDoreen is Mrs Teddy and this is made in an 'easy drinking' style.
Quite hefty without the raciness of a truly refreshing Sauvignon. Not that much fruit concentration either and a bit astringent. Not for me, but then I am probably not the target market. 13% Drink 2014-2015
Imported by Michael Skurnik Wines (USA) 15
- Teddy Hall, Dr Jan Cats Reserve Chenin Blanc 2011 StellenboschNotably deep gold. Oxidised to

the point of no return. An odd submission. Apparently he also makes a fresher style. 14%
Drink 2012-2014

12

- **Hamilton Russell Chardonnay 2014 Hemel-en-Aarde Valley**Depth to the nose of this wine. Savour and one of the most burgundian of South Africa. Surely vine age plays a part here? Restraint but promise. Could withstand comparison with the rest of the world. Much more mineral than fruity.13.97% Drink 2015-2022
Imported by Hallgarten Druitt 17
- **The Hughes Family, Nativo 2013 Swartland**58% *Viognier*, 22% *Chenin Blanc*, 10% *Roussanne*, 10% *Grenache Blanc* from *Kastielsig* site. *Organic and certified which is quite rare.* Complex flavours well married. The *Viognier* doesn't dominate and the whole is pretty pleasing and mouth-filling.13.5% Drink 2015-2018
16.5
- **Iona Chardonnay 2013 Elgin**Modest, all in balance, with an interesting, mildly yeasty edge. Good texture and a dry finish. Orange-peel hint. All in balance. More evolved than a burgundy would be.13% Drink 2015-2018
Imported by Alliance Wines (UK) 16
- **Iona Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Elgin**Very pale, crisp and focused on the nose. Cool and much drier than, say, the average NZ Sauvignon. A very respectable style. Super appetising. Perfect drink on a hot day? Like a sort of friendly, relatively light-bodied Sancerre. 13% Drink 2014-2016
Imported by Alliance Wines (UK) 16.5
- **Kaapzicht, The 1947 Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch**Pure, medium-intensity floral nose but a tad loose on the palate. Lightly chewy finish. Some spiciness (Hungarian barrels). 13.6% Drink 2016-2018
16
- **Keermont, Terrasse 2013 Stellenbosch**67% *Chenin Blanc*, 17% *Chardonnay*, 9% *Viognier*, 7% *Sauvignon Blanc* (*planted 1988*). *Lots of 42-year-old Chenin in here. Basket pressed and fermented in bigger barrels. On British Airways apparently.* Straw yellow! Very flattering with a broad but directed nose, some dried herbs. Interesting and well integrated. Broad and pungent and round and succulent. Masses of interest. Beginning, middle and end. Very seductive. Great texture.13.5% Drink 2015-2018
£21 Swig, imported by Kysela Pere et Fils (USA) 17
- **Kershaw, Clonal Selection Chardonnay 2013 Elgin**Quite a funky spontaneous fermentation nose. Good weight and balance with a hint of citrus peel and real growth on the finish. A long-term wine. Precision-tooled. 13.5% Drink 2016-2020
£16.50 Berry Bros & Rudd 16.5+
- **Klein Constantia, Metis Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Constantia***Bottling from a single vineyard at 300 m fermented with ambient yeast.* Excellent texture and potential 13.5% Drink 2016-2018
Imported by Mentzendorff (UK), Cape Classics (USA) 16.5
- **Klein Constantia, Metis Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Constantia***Joint venture with Pascal Jolivet. Natural ferment. No sulphur at crush.* Pale greenish and very pale. Full and rich on the nose - also quite floral. Just a little asparagus but very dry finish. Slightly hard. But ambitious.14% Drink 2016-2019
Imported by Cape Classics (USA), Mentzendorff (UK) 16+
- **Klein Constantia Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Constantia**Green and fresh but without that much depth. Cool and dry. 13.5% Drink 2015-2017
Imported by Mentzendorff (UK), Cape Classics (USA) 16
- **Kleine Zalze, Family Reserve Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch**Strong baked-apple character and off dry. Hint of toast and coffee. Good tension and interest. Far from fat. Long and dry.

Sinews. Well done! 13.91% Drink 2014-2019

Imported by Hatch Mansfield (UK) 16.5

- Kleinood, Tamboerskloof Upper Blaauwklippen Valley Viognier 2014 Stellenbosch *They planted this originally to add to the Syrah (you can add another 15% of another variety if you label varietally). 1% Roussanne.*
Quite spicy nose. A smell that reminds me a little of California redwood. A little salty in correct Condrieu mode. Much more interest than the average varietal Viognier. Dry finish. No fining and they use a basket press so perhaps a little astringent. 13% Drink 2015-2017
£15 RRP (imported by Marc Fine Wines (UK), Souther Shiraz Inc, Spec's (USA)) 16.5
- KWV, The Mentors Chardonnay 2013 Elgin Lively and fresh and good herbal focus. Firm and well balanced. Good texture. Quite open. Correct. 13.34% Drink 2016-2018
Imported by Bottle Green (UK), KWV (USA) 16
- KWV, The Mentors Chenin Blanc 2013 Coastal Region Salty, exciting and round. Good mouthfeel and completeness. 13.94% Drink 2015-2018
Imported by Bottle Green (UK), KWV (USA) 16.5
- KWV, The Mentors Chenin Blanc 2012 Coastal Region *Screwcap. 65% Paarl, 35% Swartland fruit.*
Racy, dry, crunchy and with excellent tension. Dry and racy with some real depth and follow-through. Very lively and one of the raciest of the whole collection of South African Chenins. 13.5% Drink 2015-2019
16.5
- KWV, The Mentors Grenache Blanc 2011 Western Cape Some paint aromas and still lots of freshness – remarkable considering the grape variety. Sweet and acid – smells like mature New World Riesling! Did they acidify? Back label is very specific about origin, so why not specify it as the official Origin? 13.5% Drink 2014-2018
Imported by Bottle Green (UK), KWV (USA) 16.5
- KWV, The Mentors Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch Lighter, leaner and more mineral and appetising than the Darling bottling. Really racy. 13.3% Drink 2015-2017
Imported by Bottle Green (UK), KWV (USA) 16.5
- KWV, The Mentors Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Darling *Very difficult to distinguish this label from the Stellenbosch bottling label.*
Green and a bit asparagus. Tad heavy. 13.61% Drink 2015-2016
Imported by Bottle Green (UK), KWV (USA) 16
- KWV, The Mentors Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon 2013 Darling Rich start and a hit of asparagus. Rich, broad and a bit fat. 13.09% Drink 2015-2016
Imported by Bottle Green (UK), KWV (USA) 15.5
- KWV, The Mentors Verdelho 2013 Stellenbosch Exciting, well-moderated varnishy varietal aromas. Very appetising and distinctive. 13.59% Drink 2015-2018
Imported by Bottle Green (UK), KWV (USA) 16.5
- Lammershoek, Roulette 2011 Swartland Distinctive nose with lots going on but it's a bit sweet and sour without those two elements being really well-knit together. Difficult to see how this is going to improve. 12.69% Drink 2013-2015
15
- Leeuwenkuil Chenin Blanc 2013 Swartland *On a very desirable old dry-farmed vineyard on the back of Paardeberg.*
Real mouthful in the glass – feels quite heavy! Sweet, juicy finish and lots of personality. Quite crystalline structure. Real density without heaviness on the palate. Promising. 13% Drink 2015-2020
16.5
- Lismore Viognier 2013 Greyton *American owner and winemaker Samantha O'Keefe.*

Pale gold with some green hint. Quite an opulent nose with some honeysuckle and a savour that may owe more to barrel than fruit? But a well-made wine even if it lacks the savour of the finest Condrieu. Well made and with good freshness which presumably reflects the vineyard's 300 m elevation. Very smooth texture indeed! 14% Drink 2014-2016

Imported by Hallgarten Druitt (UK), Kysela Pere et Files (USA) 16

- **Lismore, Barrel Fermented Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Greyton***I'm amazed that Greyton has its own Origin – for this one producer. Steve Daniel directed me to this (female) producer in the deep hinterland of Hermanus – American Samantha O'Keefe.*

Pale green gold. Very intense and firm. Very precise and tense. Lots there. Green streak but rewarding fruit depth. Lots still to come. 13.5% Drink 2015-2020

Imported by Hallgarten Druitt (UK) 16.5+

- **Lomond, Pincushion Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Cape Agulhas**Floral and off dry. Certainly cool and actually a bit chewy still. Oceanic but rather hard work. Sucky stony.14% Drink 2015-2016

15.5

- **Luddite Chenin Blanc 2012 Overberg**Debut vintage. Deep gold. Slightly sour finish and just a tad oily but very long. Drink 2013-2016

16

- **Bryan MacRobert, Abbotsdale Chenin Blanc 2013 Swartland**Relatively light nose. Solid density but not that much character or flavour. Ticks boxes rather than ignites fires. 12.5% Drink 2016-2018

Imported by Vincisive Wines (UK) 15.5

- **J H Meyer, Signature Chardonnay 2013 Elgin***Johann also makes Mount Abora. 15-year-old vines on shale soils, 4-6 tons/ha. No additions apart from sulphur. Barrel fermented in old oak. Some fermented on skins. 1,330 bottles.*

Very cool and lively. Cool and fresh. Just finishes a bit suddenly.13% Drink 2015-2017

125 Rand, £17 RRP 16

- **Momento Chenin Blanc 2013 Bot River***Made by Marelise Jansen van Rensburg. 93% Chenin Blanc, 7% Verdelho. Adding in the Verdelho she likens to lifting up your dress a bit. She did a vintage in Priorat with Eben and goes looking for old vineyards, especially Botellary which she knew via her job as Beaumont winemaker. She was irritated by too much winemaking and not enough vineyard. Two old 400-litre barrels. Very small quantity: 1,000 bottles.*

Clean pale straw colour. Really honeyed nose. Dramatic and well balanced.13.5% Drink 2015-2019

Imported by Armit (UK) 17

- **Mount Abora, Koggelbos 2012 Swartland**Deep greenish gold. Intense, cheesy nose. Firm palate attack but a bit lacking juice on the end. Were the skins just a little too thick? The balance isn't quite right, however ambitious the wine. Bone-dry finish. 12.5% Drink 2016-2018

Imported by The Wine Treasury (UK) 16

- **Mulderbosch, 1,000 Miles Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Western Cape***Adam Mason winemaker travels thousands of miles seeking out amazing vineyard sites in SA. Two in Elgin, one Darling, one Simonsberg.*

Mid straw. Light nose and real richness on the palate. But still embryonic – not really knit together yet. But admirably refined.13.22% Drink 2016-2020

£25 RRP (imported by Armit (UK)) 16+

- **Mulderbosch, 1,000 Miles Sauvignon Blanc 2012 Western Cape**Deeper straw than the 2013. Nicely developed nose – bright fruit with some orange peel. But a bit of green grassiness too. Very refreshing – reminds me of an opulent Pouilly Fumé. But just a little sweet. Off dry.13% Drink 2015-2019

16

- **Mulderbosch, Single Vineyard Block A Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch***All of these wines were*

aged in neutral barriques for 10 months on lees. Then put into naughty heavy bottles. Close to False Bay. RS 4.5g/l.

Floral and off dry with really opulent, flattering fruit with a salty finish. Very appetising. Food wine! Nicely done, though I suspect not cheap. Finishes dry and interesting. 13.5% Drink 2015-2020

17

- Mulderbosch, Single Vineyard Block S2 Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch *Malmesbury shale soils. RS 2.8 g/l.*

Very spicily aromatic, some red spice – maybe the one in goulash? Paprika. Dry and muscular on the finish. Great contrast between nose and palate but not unpleasant! Seductive satiny texture. 12.5% Drink 2014-2019

17

- Mulderbosch, Single Vineyard Block W Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch *Granite soils overlooking False Bay.*

Deep gold. Rich and floral on the nose. Lots of substance and ambition. Should age well in a pretty exuberant style. Pretty hot finish – maybe a tad too much? 14% Drink 2014-2017

16.5

- Mullineux 2013 Swartland *Mainly Chenin, Clairette and Viognier. Bright straw. Vines up to 60 years old.*

More wet-wool character than damp straw on the nose. Firm and mildly, attractively, medicinal. Lots of acidity. Still quite embryonic. The 2014 is still in barrel. Andrea reports that as they have evolved, their wines take longer and longer to open. They love the 2010 now. Tense and exciting, this. Drink 2017-2021

17

- Mullineux, CWG The Gris Semillon 2013 Swartland *Made by Andrea Mullineux. Paardeberg from decomposed granite, planted in 1959 and used to go to a co-op. Mixed planting but this was picked specially. Just over two barrels.*

Bright pale lemon. Quite obviously perfumed. Lively and lightly medicinal. Edgy and very lightly oily but lots of fun. Complex. 13% Drink 2016-2020

17

- Mullineux, Kloof Street Chenin Blanc 2014 Swartland *Kloof St – first vintage 2010. More stainless steel and younger vines than the Mullineux bottlings.*

Damp straw nose (very Loire-y) and then undertow of mild quinine and real bruised apple. One of the most Loire-like Chenins I have come across from Swartland. Very respectable without being quite as deep and exciting as the finest Swartland Chenins. **GV** 13.5% Drink 2015-2017

16.5

- Mullineux, Schist Chenin Blanc 2013 Swartland *Kastielberg again, very old soils so very delineated by soil type. These vines struggle more than the Quartz so the wine tends to be a bit more concentrated. From above the Quartz vineyard. (Top of Kastielberg is sandstone and the bottom is clay.)*

Racy and rich and a little fatter than the Quartz. Rather flattering. 13.5% Drink 2016-2021

17

- Mullineux, Quartz Chenin Blanc 2013 Swartland *First vintage of this wine bottled was 2012. Comes from a stripe of quartz on Kastielberg. Quartz is very deep and reflects a lot of light. Keeps very bright acidity.*

Very bright, lightly greenish gold. Pungent, quite 'cool' nose. Sinewy and structured. Very refreshing and linear. Tastes less rich than the Schist. 13.5% Drink 2018-2023

17

- Nederburg, Heritage Heroes The Anchorman Chenin Blanc 2012 Western Cape *Cool, neutral and with some aged sweetness à la Riesling! A bit dull. 13% Drink 2013-2015*

Imported by Matthew Clark (UK) 15.5

- **Nederburg, Heritage Heroes The Beautiful Lady Gewurztraminer 2013 Western Cape** Terpene heaven! Sweet notes of polish and confectioned industrial-air-freshener aromas. Not true enough. Lots of phenols. Air freshener. 13% Drink 2015-2016

Imported by Matthew Clark (UK) 14.5

- **Nederburg, Heritage Heroes The Young Airhawk Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Western Cape** Off dry and fine but nothing special, and there is already a hint of asparagus. 13.5% Drink 2014-2015

Imported by Matthew Clark (UK) 15

- **Nederburg, Ingenuity 2013 Western Cape** *Winemaker Natasha Boks is a natural saleswoman. She made her first vintage in 2014. Mainly 5% Sauvignon Blanc from Darling and Sémillon from Darling and Durbanville. Also Paarl Chardonnay, Darling Chenin Blanc, Paarl Viognier, Stellenbosch Riesling, Verdelho and Gewurztraminer. They buy in the Darling and Durbanville fruit. RS 2.9g/l. They want at least 22 Balling, under 24. Tank and barrel fermented.*

Quite creamy and perfumed – as though the Gewurz and Viognier dominates the nose. But there is a slightly green note from Sauvignon Blanc. Nicely balanced and integrated. Slightly warm on the end. 14% Drink 2015-2018

16

- **Newton Johnson, Family Vineyards Chardonnay 2013 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley** Satisfying wine with a beginning, middle and end and no shortage of fruit. Savoury end. Juicy, salivatory stuff. Cool and restrained. Nothing extreme and all in balance. 13.62% Drink 2015-2018

Imported by Bibendum (UK) 16.5

- **David Nieuwoudt, Ghost Corner Semillon 2012 Elim** Very pale. Very cool, timid nose. Something agreeably wet-stony about the palate and just a little bit of sweetness too. Good vitality and a light streak of green. 13.5% Drink 2014-2018

16

- **David Nieuwoudt, Ghost Corner Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Elim** Very fruity nose. Off dry and a tiny bit of astringency on the finish. Seems to be aiming for weight rather than finesse, and there's a little bit of sweetness too. Slight bitterness on the finish. 13% Drink 2015-2016

15.5

- **David Nieuwoudt, Ghost Corner The Bowline 2013 Elim** Sauvignon/Sémillon. Muddy nose with some asparagus notes and not enough dryness nor vitality on the palate. Dull. 13% Drink 2014-2016

15

- **Oak Valley, Mountain Reserve 2010 Elgin** Sauvignon with 2% Sémillon. Looks almost as though there is a pinkish tinge. Is there some Sémillon Gris in this? Certainly very perfumed, almost opulent. Surely the most opulent wine of Elgin? Off dry. Unusual for the region but a confident well-balanced wine that would not look out of place in Stellenbosch line-up. Firm and flattering. A very Cape style that I'd like to see alongside a fine dry white bordeaux. 13.5% Drink 2013-2018

16.5

- **Opstal, The Barber Semillon 2013 Slanghoek** *Vines planted in 1998. Two clones on a big block, opened up early. Debut vintage.*

Very bright fruit and very varietal. A light green streak and some honey although the wine is bone dry. Should age well. A little conventional but absolutely varietal. 13.16% Drink 2015-2018

Imported by Edgmond Wines (UK) 16.5

- **Opstal, Carl Everson Chenin Blanc 2013 Slanghoek** *The winemaker is Attie Louw. Vines planted in 1980. Just the second vintage. They used to sell off the grapes. Spontaneous fermentation. Old barrels. 10 months before bottling.*

Quite salty. Solid even if a bit chewy. 13.22% Drink 2016-2018

Imported by Edgmond Wines (UK) 15.5

- Ormonde, Ondine Semillon 2013 Darling Really interesting and herbal with a green streak. Both rich and refreshing. Zippy and rewarding already. Drink 2014-2017
16.5
- Paardebosch Chenin Blanc 2014 Swartland *David Sadie's first vintage in charge of this property, although he had not been in charge of the vineyards.*
Medium gold. Lightly sulphidey nose. Very broad and charming. Open fruit and very clean. Satisfying and relatively flattering but with just enough fruitiness. An excellent effort! Quite long. 13.5% Drink 2015-2020
Imported by Vincisive (UK), Pascal Schildt Selection (USA) 17
- Perdeberg Winery, The Dry Land Collection Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc 2013 Paarl *Grapes from a 30-year-old vineyard on Perdeberg. Fermented and aged in 500-litre barrels on lees for 10 months.*
Attractively high-toned aromas. Hint of smokiness is submerged in great rich fruit (just 3.8 g/l RS). Amazing quality from a co-op. Great stuff. Chalky finish. Great structure. **VGV** 13.75%
Drink 2015-2020
Imported by Bibendum (UK) 17
- Raats, Old Vine Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch Well balanced and rather reticent at the moment. Waiting for bottle development, this dry wine grows on the finish. All tucked in. 13.5% Drink 2016-2020
Imported by Alliance (UK) 16+
- Rall 2013 Coastal Region *Chenin Blanc, Verdelho, Chardonnay, Viognier. Mostly Swartland fruit.*
Real raciness and a hint of reductive winemaking on the nose. Rather impressively limpid. Lightly astringent and very transparent. Just off dry and with finesse and real class. Persistent. 14% Drink 2015-2020
Imported by Indigo Wines (UK), Blue Crane Imports (USA) 17.5
- Remhoogte, Honeybunch Reserve Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch Deep gold. Round and honeyed. Lots of fun and reward. Only just off dry and masses of confident fruit. Deep flavoured. Good stuff. Tastes rich even though there is not much sweetness. 14% Drink 2015-2020
Imported by Edgmond Wines (UK) 16.5
- Restless River Chardonnay 2014 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley Leaner, greener and less heavily oaked than the 2012. A step in the right direction definitely! The nose is still very slightly sweet but there is very good structure and potential here. Drink 2016-2020
16.5
- Restless River Chardonnay 2012 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley *Single 2-ha vineyard and a label that tells you everything! Fortnightly bâtonnage for instance.*
Greenish gold. The tight-grain French oak seems a little sweet and perhaps just a tad dominant. Solid, old-fashioned Chardonnay provides a decent mouthful of fruit and oak. Some freshness on the finish. 13.5% Drink 2015-2018
16
- Reyneke Chenin Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch *German oak plus 2,500-litre foudres from Alto Adige introduced since 2013 with a cooling plate to avoid MLF. TA 6.1 g/l. Very old vines.*
Some juice and even a little ginger beer. Just bottled and still embryonic. 13% Drink 2016-2025
Imported by Indigo, New Generation Wines (UK) 16+
- Reyneke Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch *13 months in oak. He's aiming for a Vouvray style and trying to maintain malic.*
High toned and honeyed. Very savoury - though much lower acid than Vouvray. Racy but with great depth of flavour. Really serious. Dry end. Much drier-than-average South African

Chenin.13% Drink 2015-2023

Imported by Indigo, New Generation Wines (UK) 16.5+

- *Reyneke, Reserve 2013 Stellenbosch* *Three vineyards of Sauvignon Blanc. There are superior pockets all over. Whole bunch. Ferments a bit dirtier than regular Sauvignon Blanc. Using a Bordeaux cooper. 13 months in cask.*

Dense, racy and vibrant. Dry and with very different treatments for each barrel. Some floral notes but it's all on the finish. Very lively. Deep and rich. Thorough and so lovely, interesting and not obviously Sauvignon Blanc.12.5% Drink 2015-2019

Imported by Indigo, New Generation Wines (UK) 17

- *Reyneke, Reserve 2012 Stellenbosch* *Sauvignon Blanc. Style not that easy to sell. Not a common style although Vergelegen make their version.*

Tends to get a little fatter with age. Broad and rich compared with the 2013. Lots there. 13% Drink 2015-2020

Imported by Indigo, New Generation Wines (UK) 17

- *Reyneke Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch* *'Whole bunch because I can't use settling enzymes.'* *Settle clean, spontaneous yeast and used casks.*

Rich palate attack and savoury finish. A bit more floral than most Sauvignons. Long and layered. Quite floral and very different from most SBs. 13% Drink 2015-2018

Imported by Indigo, New Generation Wines (UK) 16+

- *Rijks, Private Cellar Chenin Blanc 2009 Tulbagh* *RS 4.7 g/l. Mid gold. Masses of freshness – still! Excitement and tension. Real savour. Long. But not heavy. Still some muscle here, and very long. 14.56% Drink 2012-2022*

Imported by Boutinit (UK) 17.5

- *Rudera, De Tradisie Chenin Blanc 2010 Stellenbosch* *Blend of grapes from two different vineyards.*

Salty savoury nose. A bit loose on the palate. Needs a bit more tension, but perhaps that's just the age. Past its best, I think.14% Drink 2012-2016

Imported by Domaine Direct (UK) 16

- *David Sadie, Aristargos 2013 Swartland* *38% Chenin Blanc, 28% Viognier, 17% Roussanne, 17% Clairette Blanche.*

Pale greenish gold. Very full and broad but it all tightens up on the finish. A hint of broom and lemon oil. Interesting! Embryonic.13% Drink 2016-2020

Imported by Vincisive (UK), Pascal Schildt Selection (USA) 17+

- *Sadie Family, Palladius 2012 Swartland* *Honey, pale amber colour. Tense and lively and concentrated. A bit more mainstream than the 2005. Focused – how will it age? Much less blowsy than the 2005. Still youthful . Lots of fun but all potential. 14.1% Drink 2017-2027*

17.5+

- *Sadie Family, Palladius 2005 Swartland* *Honey, pale amber colour. Lots of evolution on the nose, reminds me a bit of an old Australian – Hunter? (I believe it does contain some Sémillon.) Salty and rich and fresh. At peak? Less intense than the 2012. 14.6% Drink 2010-2017*

17

- *Sadie Family, Sequillo 2013 Swartland* *Chenin Blanc, Clairette, Viognier, Verdelho, Palomino. Exciting tang on the nose. Honeysuckle start. Then it slightly falls away. Lots of density and grunt with a hint of coffee cream on the finish. A little hot.14% Drink 2015-2017*

16.5

- *Sani Mountain Vineyards Chenin Blanc 2013 Lesotho* *NB not South African! My first Lesotho wine! Smart gold figuring on the bottle and wax capsule.*

Very slightly heavy, sweet fruit with a touch of honey on the nose but if I were in Lesotho I would regard this as manna from heaven. Very competently made. 13.88% Drink 2015-2016

16

- **Savage 2013 Western Cape***New label from Duncan Savage, winemaker at Cape Point. 56% Sauvignon Blanc (from Kaaimansgat, Walker Bay), 44% Sémillon.*
Fruit brought in. Less tense than Cape Point's whites. Drink 2014-2017
16.5
- **Scali, Blanc 2013 Voor Paardeberg***Passion, Art and Tradition are evoked on the front label. Chenin Blanc. Certified organic.*
Deep, not quite clear straw colour. Definitely 'natural' on the nose but there is enough fruit underneath. Intriguing with masses to titillate the palate. It is not short of alcohol but it's really intense and has sufficient acidity to keep it from being a chore. Honeysuckle, lime, broom and more. Not a wine to sip casually but one to make the average white burgundy look really rather boring. Food wine. Lobster wine? 14% Drink 2014-2019
Imported by Astrum Wine Cellars (UK) 17
- **Shannon Semillon 2014 Elgin***Vines planted in 2000. Bottled in November. 100% barrel fermented, some new. Sémillon is quite a discovery for Elgin. So far it has been a blending component in Elgin for Sauvignon. The 2012 is lovely now apparently.*
Light, fresh and definitely Sémillon. Bright and tangerine peel aromas, and a slight but attractive bitterness. Very well made and precise. Pretty. 13.5% Drink 2016-2020
Imported by ABS Wine Agencies (UK), Southern Starz (USA) 17
- **Silweris, Single Vineyard Chenin Blanc 2012 Swartland***900 bottles. '85% egg, 15% barrel'.*
Pale greenish gold. Very clean and precise and manages to give the impression that there are hidden depths which is pretty clever! Quite salty. I wouldn't mind a little more sweetness or fruitiness. Hint of liquorice. Rather severe finish. Work in progress. 12.9% Drink 2017-2020
Imported by Pascal Schildt (USA) 16
- **Simonsig, Chenin avec Chêne Chenin Blanc 2010 Stellenbosch***RS 5.1 g/l. Bright yellow. Lots of development on the nose but still excitement and creaminess on the palate. A fairly rich wine but with good balance. Firm and confident. 14.3% Drink 2013-2017*
SA Wines Online 16.5
- **Solms-Delta, Amalie Grenache Blanc/Chenin Blanc/Roussanne/Viognier 2013 Western Cape***Grapes sourced from 'all over the show'. 44% Grenache Blanc plus Chenin Blanc, Roussanne, Viognier sourced from Piekenierskloof. Via Citrusdal co-op. Charles Back bought early 2014. Barrel and tank fermented.*
Very smooth and well integrated. Some concrete. Nicely integrated and certainly ready. On the cusp of not having quite sufficient acidity but a very nice wine. 13.5% Drink 2014-2016
Imported by Dreyfus Ashby (UK) 16.5
- **Solms-Delta, Koloni 2013 Western Cape***83% Muscat de Frontignan, 17% Muscat Alexandria, grapes pinched on the vine to desiccate them, from their own farm. RS 13 g/l. Trying for an Alsace style.*
Very Muscat-like on the nose and then quite soft. Firm and fine. Lots of fun. Those who enjoy Muscat d'Alsace would enjoy this medium-dry most unusual wine. Just not oily. May get drier in future vintages which will be no bad thing. Chewy end. Cheese? Needs something savoury. 13.5% Drink 2014-2016
Imported by Dreyfus Ashby (UK) 16
- **Spice Route Chenin Blanc 2014 Swartland***Very mainstream nose as though commercial yeasts had been used. Then a sweet start and lightly astringent but not much of Swartland's distinctive grunt. Commercial in every respect. 13.5% Drink 2015-2017*
Imported by Seckford Agencies (UK), Vineyard Brands (USA) 15
- **Spier, Woolworths Private Collection Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch***Who could resist a winemaker called Jacques Erasmus? From Simonsberg fruit. RS 6.4 g/l.*
There is some depth and grunt to this off-dry wine. Just very slightly like golden syrup but not aggressively sweet. Still lightly chewy on the end. Focused though without that much tension.

Satisfying for early drinking if you're seeking a little sweetness.13.64% Drink 2014-2016
16

- **Spioenkop Chenin Blanc 2013 Elgin***Relatively young vines. 37% of the blend was in wood for four months and 5% of the fruit was botrytised.*
Notably pale straw. Cool and fresh. A little middle of the road. Tight but not richness. Not sure this is a winning combo of variety and place...? Too tentative?13.43% Drink 2016-2018
Imported by Boutinot (UK) 15.5
- **Springfield, Methode Ancienne Chardonnay 2011 Robertson***One of the earliest to flaunt ambient yeasts!*
Mid green-gold. Honeyed nose. Sweetish start. Fun and with real texture and flavour .
Excitement and tension.13.7% Drink 2014-2017
Imported by Bibendum (UK) 16.5
- **Springfield, Special Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Robertson**Very pale. Dry finish and a bit salty. Lots of initial attack (yeast?) and then it all becomes a bit like seawater.12.4% Drink 2014-2015
Imported by Bibendum (UK) 15.5
- **Springfontein, Terroir Selection Chenin Blanc 2012 Walker Bay***Tariro Masayiti. 25 ha on shales planted in 1999-2000, owned by a German couple. Bought in 1994. 4 km from the ocean and all on limestone. Chenin Blanc with oak. Spontaneous fermentation. They get a bit of botrytis. No additions - no SO2 - and no fining. They are trying to get alcohol levels down. Some barrels go through MLF.*
Big and broad. Big and bold with some noble rot on the nose. Very distinctive! Not obviously a cool-climate wine but bags of personality. Nutty, honeyed finish. 14.5% Drink 2015-2018
£14 RRP (imported by Inverarity Morton (UK)) 16
- **Stark-Condé, The Field Blend 2014 Jonkershoek Valley***Roussanne, Chenin Blanc, Viognier, Verdelho.*
Very pale. Mild and gentle with a few fermentation aromas still hanging around but very satiny texture and some nice floral and herby aromas waiting to come to the fore. Off-dry finish. Should please quite a lot of palates. I'd wait until the end of 2015 before drinking it.13.5% Drink 2015-2017
Imported by Vineyard Brands (USA) 16+
- **Steenberg, Magna Carta 2012 Constantia***JD Pretorius is the winemaker. 60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Sémillon. Sauvignon Blanc is 7% stainless steel plus old oak. Sémillon is all barrel fermented, some new oak. Most of the Sauvignon Blanc was planted in 1989, the Sémillon was planted in 1992. Lots of dead arm so yields were 2.2 tonne/ha, Sémillon 6 tonne/ha. TA nearly 4 g/l. pH 3.2. From 2014 they've started playing with malolactic fermentation and skin contact. Just 500 cases. 2007 was the first vintage and apparently ages very well.*
Greenish pale gold. Very pyraziney nose (even at 14%!) and then the richness of oak. A very unusual style. This is the cream of the crop. A bit hot on the end. Hint of sweetness. A bit astringent now.14% Drink 2017-2023
Imported by Armit Wines (UK) 16+
- **Stellenrust Chenin Blanc 2012 Stellenbosch**Mid gold. Just a little reduced on the nose and then the impression of quite a bit of residual sugar (4 g/l). Finishes a bit suddenly. 13.4% Drink 2014-2016
Imported by Bibendum (UK) 15
- **Stellenrust, 49 Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch***49-year-old vines. RS 4.4 g/l.*
Very lightly honeyed on the nose. Some real depth though. Lightly phenolic to give it grunt. Very good balance and energy. Lots of appeal.13.9% Drink 2015-2019
Imported by Bibendum (UK) 16.5
- **Sterhuis Chardonnay 2013 Stellenbosch***Previous vintage was a Platter five-star wine. Bottelary*

Hills.

Pale greenish gold. Very fresh and skittish. Nothing at all heavy about this. Nicely balanced, already fun to drink. Just a suggestion of warmth on the finish but there is nothing in excess. 14.5% Drink 2015-2017

16.5

- **Strandveld Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Elim**Nose seems a bit reduced (although the bottle is cork stoppered) and sweaty. A bit loose and unfocused. Bitter finish. 13% Drink 2014-2015
Imported by Enotria (UK) 14.5
- **Sumaridge Chardonnay 2013 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley**Greenish gold. Very clear. Some attractively savoury oak on the nose and excellent balance. Much better than their Pinot. Very smart. Good clones? Great balance. Just the sort of alternative to white burgundy that the Cape excels at. 13.5% Drink 2015-2019
16.5
- **Testalonga, El Bandito Skin Contact 2014 SwartlandPaardeberg. Four weeks' skin contact. Chenin made since 2008. Craig Hawkins (of Lammershoek fame) is recuperating it. 3% whole-bunch pressed, the rest whole berries. Old 500-litre barrels. Mildly tense and beery on the nose. More odd yeasts than astringent skin contact on the nose (he made one wine on skins for two years!).**
Pears without the sweetness. Clean and floral. Fades rapidly but an easy version of skin-contact wine.12% Drink 2015-2016
Imported by Les Caves de Pyrène (UK) 16
- **The Three Foxes Clairette 2013 Wellington**Made for some years by Chris Mullineux and some old friends. Long skin contact.
Pale-to-mid honey colour. Tangy nose. Very astringent. Not quite enough fruit and weight to compensate for that. Suddenly falls away after strong mouth-drying character. A novelty.11% Drink 2015-2016
15.5
- **Thorne & Daughters, Rocking Horse 2013 Western Cape**Winemaker is John Seccombe, a scientist who worked at Thelema. He started 2013 in Chris Alheit's cellar. SA-born and Plumpton-trained. Some red and white Sémillon interplanted and skin fermented. 39% Roussanne, 23% Chardonnay, 23% Sémillon, 15% bushvine Chenin Blanc . Whole bunch. Simple winemaking.
Pale straw. Rich start, full and tastes as though it has some residual sugar. Then firm on the finish because he basket-presses hard. Wants ageability. Off dry. Loads of personality.13.5% Drink 2016-2020
16.5+
- **Thorne & Daughters, Tin Soldier Semillon 2013 Franschoek**From a field blend of 50% Sémillon Blanc and 50% Sémillon Gris, 32 and 38 years old. He will be concentrating on Franschoek Sémillon because he has found three old blocks. Skin fermented.
Pale orange. Spicy nose. Not aggressively tannic but lots to chew on. Lots of fruit. Real spice and toast on the end. A hark back to *outydse wyn* (old-time wines). 'A geeky wine'!13% Drink 2016-2020
16.5+
- **Tierhoek Chenin Blanc 2013 Piekenierskloof**30% fermented and aged in French oak for six months. From 37-year-old vines trellised to catch only the late morning sun (*skuinskap* system). RS 3.3 g/l .
Pale greenish gold. Then real depth to this wine. Hoorah! Lots of excitement here, from high up in Swartland on the way north. Richness without sweetness. Tension too. Quite a standout.14.42% Drink 2015-2020
17

- Trizanne Signature Wines, TSW Reserve Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon 2013 Elim 50% Sauvignon Blanc, 50% Sémillon. Both barrel fermented and matured in 500-litre old French oak and quite a bit of bâtonnage. Wine made at Cape Point. Bottled end of January 2014. Pale gold. Hint of richness but great freshness too. Lots of interest. 13.4% Drink 2015-2018 R135 16
- Trizanne Signature Wines, TSW Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Elim Planted 1999-2004. Not yet released. Windy. Early rain can be a problem. 6 t/ha. Pale greenish straw. Very classic cool Sauvignon nose with a bit of nettle. Then on the palate it's sweet and quite generous. A hint of fermentation aromas. Very fresh and easy. 13.2% Drink 2015-2016 15.5+
- La Vierge, Jezebel Chardonnay 2013 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge Sweet nose and fresh, well-sculpted palate that is still a little chewy on the end. 13.6% Drink 2015-2018 Imported by The Wine Treasury (UK) 16+
- Villiera, Traditional Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch Just three months in oak. Malolactic fermentation suppressed for 6% of the blend. Attractive smoky/savoury character to this dry wine. Good depth and potential for ageing. Finishes just slightly suddenly but well made. 14.4% Drink 2015-2018 Imported by Dreyfus Ashby (UK) 16.5
- Vondeling, Babiana Chenin Blanc 2012 Voor Paardeberg Pale greenish straw. Lively, spicy and floral. Delicate and rewarding. Good balance and attack. 13.7% Drink 2014-2018 Imported by St Aubyn Leschalles (UK) 16.5
- Waterford, Library Collection Riesling 2013 Elgin Eight-year-old vines. Bought-in fruit. RS 8 g/l. Tangy grapefruit nose and off dry. Herbal and dry finish. A little talcy. Apparently went beautifully with a Vietnamese pork dish. 12.5% Drink 2015-2018 Imported by Fields Morris & Verdin (UK), Spec's (USA) 16
- Waterford, Single Vineyard Estate Chardonnay 2013 Stellenbosch Some of the oldest Chardonnays in Stellenbosch, CY3 clone planted 1988 on less than 5 ha, one of the first after the Auxerrois scandal. Fresh and clean. A little neutral. Very competent but veering on the full and rich side. Still a little astringent. Just released. 13% Drink 2016-2019 Imported by Fields Morris & Verdin (UK), Spec's (USA) 16
- Waterford, Single Vineyard Estate Chardonnay 2007 Stellenbosch Same fruit as the current Estate Chardonnay. No malolactic fermentation. Pretty rich and full. A little wet wool and honeyed. Quite hot on the end. 13.5% Drink 2010-2016 15
- Waterkloof, Circle of Life 2013 Stellenbosch Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc co-fermented in barrel. On the lees for nine months with no malo. Pretty youthful and with a pretty warm finish. Very slightly sickly. 13.5% Drink 2015-2018 15.5
- Waterkloof, Circumstance Chenin Blanc 2013 Stellenbosch Fruit (unusually) bought in, from 25-year-old bush vines on Helderberg sand and granite. Barrel fermented and long bottle-aged. Quite a warm finish but really bright, vibrant fruit. Full of life and interest. 14% Drink 2016-2020 16.5
- Waterkloof, Circumstance Chenin Blanc 2009 Stellenbosch I rather brazenly asked for an older vintage and am thrilled that I did. The first vintage made in the award-winning new winery overlooking False Bay. This fermented for 13 months. Deep straw, pungent, slightly reductive. Really evolved and thrilling. Very long. Great

stuff. Drink 2012-2019

17.5

- **Waterkloof, Circumstance Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch** *17-year-old south-facing vines with minimal additions. 70% went into 600-litre old barrels.*
Very pale, light and minerally. Super refreshing. Bone dry, wet-stone flavours. 13% Drink 2014-2016
16.5
- **Waterkloof, Circumstance Sauvignon Blanc 2008 Stellenbosch** *Light nose. Very cool and fresh with fruit that has held up beautifully. The merest hint of decay on the nose but not on the palate. Pretty impressive for its age.* Drink 2010-2015
16.5
- **Waterkloof Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Stellenbosch** *Single block, basket pressed and spontaneously fermented but a bit hot, sweet and rich for me. This bottling is the top of the range. Perhaps it will settle down eventually.* 13.5% Drink 2016-2018
15.5
- **Whalehaven Chardonnay 2013 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley** *Pale gold and very little nose. A hint of ginger beer on the palate. Pretty big. A suggestion of astringency on the rather lacklustre finish.* 14.55% Drink 2015-2017
Imported by Amathus Wines (UK) 15.5
- **Whalehaven Chardonnay 2012 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley** *Oddly coppery tinge. Full, evolved and floral. Strange notes with some caramel. Much more evolved than most of its Chardonnay neighbours. Sour finish.* 13.79% Drink 2013-2014
Imported by Amathus Wines (UK) 15
- **J C Wickens, Swerwer Chenin Blanc 2013 Swartland** *Jasper is Adi's winemaker. Swerwer, his own label, means vagabond. 50-year-old granite-grown vines.*
Tense and rich with real chew on the end. Exciting combination of density and youth. Long. 14% Drink 2015-2021
17+

ROSÉ

- **Craven, Rosé Pinot Gris 2014 Stellenbosch** *This is a rose-petal rosé without doubt! My only Cape Pinot Gris. Smells rosy but there is a serious, serious lack of fruit on the palate. Iron-filings finish. This is worrying. Do not submit this to an Australian wine show....* Drink 2014
13
- **Waterford, Circumstance Cape Coral Rosé 2014 Stellenbosch** *To combat reduction potential it was made in wooden fermenters and left on lees for six months. Winemaker Nadia Bernard worked with Boutinot in Cairanne and was inspired there. Very exciting Cape answer to Bandol.*
Not heavy but its low acid makes it taste quite soft although there is quite enough acidity to keep it lively. Very pale orange, smoky, broad and great fun. Doesn't taste remotely puny. 12.5% Drink 2014-2016
16.5

SPARKLING

- **Graham Beck, Cap Classique Blanc de Blancs Brut 2010 Robertson** *Méthode Cap Classique. Smells just off dry. Some attempt at autolysis here. Lightly ginger-beery with some depth.*

Carefully made and just very slightly phenolic on the finish. Ambitious and I can imagine the quality will just get better and better. One of the few Méthode Cap Classiques with some persistence. 11.85% Drink 2014-2018

Imported by Bibendum (UK) 16

- **Bon Courage, Jacques Bruère Cap Classique Blanc de Blancs 2009 Robertson** Very neutral nose. Good balance. Pretty light but you could view this as delicate if you were serving it outside at a wedding. I could really imagine it going down well in that context. Nothing to object to. 11% Drink 2014-2017
Imported by Direct Wines (USA) 16
- **Bosman, Méthode Cap Classique Steen 2012 Wellington** *More and more producers aware of heritage are reverting to the word Steen for Chenin Blanc.*
From a particularly old vineyard yet admirably fresh, clean and interesting. Drink 2015-2017
16.5
- **Chevallerie, Filia Cap Classique Chenin Blanc Brut Nature 2012 Swartland** Fine, zero-dosage fizz from a Geisenheim-trained winemaker and her daughters who have harnessed their Chenin high on the Perdeberg to good effect. They also sell grapes widely. Drink 2015-2017
16
- **Delaire Graff, Méthode Cap Classique Sunrise 2013 South Africa** A tad sweet on the finish of this very youthful fizz. Drink 2016-2018
15.5
- **Ken Forrester, Méthode Cap Classique Sparklehorse 2012 Western Cape** Lots of autolysis on the nose of this well-made fizz. Drink 2014-2016
16
- **Charles Fox, Rosé Cap Classique Brut 2011 Elgin** *Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Méthode Cap Classique.*
Mid salmon. Some real interest on the nose – bravo! Lots of strawberry fruit but not heavy or syrupy and the fruit/acid balance is spot on. Very refreshing and well made. A fairly substantial wine in terms of weight but all in balance. Dry finish. Bit more complex than some. 12.5% Drink 2014-2018
16
- **Vondeling, Méthode Ancestrale Chardonnay 2013 Voor Paardeberg** Gently sweet nose. Fun. Not quite as low in alcohol as some pétillant naturels. Appley light Chardonnay. Very well balanced and well made. I would have thought there would be a very willing market for this, with its light charge of residual sugar and Chardonnay on the (smart) label. 12% Drink 2015-2016
Imported by St Aubyn Leschalles (UK) 16
- **Weltevrede, Philip Jonker The Ring Cap Classique Blanc de Blancs 2009 Robertson** Fruit smells just a little green, and only the merest hint of autolysis. Then a tad astringent on the palate but good dry well-balanced fruit. Very refreshing, just not that complex. 11.62% Drink 2013-2016
Imported by Harley Wines (UK) 15.5

SWEET & FORTIFIED

- **Boekenhoutskloof, Noble Late Harvest Semillon 2009 South Africa** Mid tawny to dark gold. Smells strongly of dried apricots. Sweet and tangy. Not at all heavy. Good freshness and cleanliness even if it hurtles towards a rather sudden finish. 12% Drink 2012-2016
16.5
- **Boplaas, Cape Tawny Vintners Reserve NV Western Cape** *Tinta Barroca (90%) & Touriga Nacional (10%), barrel aged for 12-14 years.*

Pale rose colour. 'Slow roasted pork belly with parsnip purée would go really well with this.' A little open and unfocused but correct otherwise. A bit harsh on the spirit. 18.5% Drink 2015-2017

16

- Keermont 2013 Stellenbosch Sauvignon Blanc. Vine dried; cordon cut. 18 months. On British Airways.
Lovely dried-apricot nose. Tangy and rich. Lots of luscious sweetness and only just enough acidity. Peach compote. Satisfying but not for ageing. 12% Drink 2014-2016
£24 per half RRP 16.5
- Klein Constantia, Vin de Constance 2011 Constantia Muscat de Frontignan. Matt Day is the winemaker. Main aim is to improve freshness and aromatics. Picked in 25 different batches. Bright orange. Muscat nose and a little syrupy but loads of pleasure. Hint of orange skin. 13.5% Drink 2016-2020
Imported by Cape Classics (USA), Mentzendorff (UK) 16
- KWV, The Mentors Noble Late Harvest 2012 Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc. Bright coppery gold. Lots of sweetness and acidity and a hint of Tokaj dried apricots even if a little less complex than that. Just a hint of syrupiness. But a very good stab. **GV?** 10.05% Drink 2014-2016
Imported by Bottle Green (UK), KWV (USA) 16
- Mullineux, Straw Wine 2013 Swartland Two vineyards, on each of schist and granite. (They need medium bunches because too small they shrivel to nothing; too big and rot can be a problem. Their source next to Roundstone has been acquired by Boekenhoutskloof but they are confident that they can source elsewhere.) They hang the fruit outside on washing lines in the shade after picking it at normal ripeness to retain acidity. Press gently. Barrel ferments 9-11 months. No topping. 280 g/l, 'but it sounds sweeter than it is', says Andrea. Fermentation stops naturally always. TA 10 g/l.
Bright tiger amber colour. Very appetising and toasty nose. Tastes relatively soft and sweet - apricots - a bit like Tokaji with extra sugar. Not that dense but very sweet and very charming, complex nose. Satisfying. Drink 2015-2019

17