

Vondeling



Location: Paarl ■ Map: Paarl & Wellington ■ WO: Voor Paardeberg ■ Est 2001 ■ 1stB 2005 ■ Tasting, sales & tours by appt ■ Owner(s) Armajaro Holdings UK ■ Winemaker(s) Matthew Copeland ■ Viticulturist(s) Julian Johnsen ■ 80ha (cab, carignan, grenache r/w, merlot, mourv, shiraz, chard, chenin, muscat de F, sauv, viog) ■ 250t/15,000cs own label 45% red 55% white ■ PO Box 57 Wellington 7654 ■ admin@vondelingwines.co.za ■ www.vondelingwines.co.za ■ S 33° 35' 45.7" E 018° 51' 6.4" ■ T 021-869-8595 ■ F 021-869-8219

Their t-shirts proclaim: 'Have you been Vondeled lately?' but don't mistake tongue-in-cheek humour for flippancy - this Voor Paardeberg winery is serious about everything it does. Viticulturist Julian Johnsen credits the farming team for knuckling under and doubling their workload, while substantial money and effort was ploughed into improving road access to their mountain slopes for the local Fire Protection Association. There's even a multi-megawatt renewable energy project utilising methane gas generated by chicken manure and winery waste...

★★★★ **Babiana** ✓ 'Noctiflora' dropped from pvs moniker. **08** still delivers rich, creamy lime & apricot mouthful. Chenin leads viog, chard & grenache bl. Sleek oak platform & complex buttery length.

★★★★ **Petit Blanc** Fresh, vibrant **10** shows nettle edge to baked apple ripeness, rounded & full, flinty minerality at end.

Erica Shiraz ★★★ **07** last time regained carignan & mourv seasoning, dash grenache; dense & spicy fruit in tight-grained frame. Third new oak. **Baldrick Shiraz** ✓ ★★★★★ Smoky black fruit & cinnamon, **09** lively spice on gentle textured frame, dabs mourv (10%) & viog (4%) add exoticism. 11 mths in brl. **Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot** ★★★★★ 60/40 blend; **06** less herbal, more agreeably berry-fruited than pvs, fine tannic structure for 3-5 yrs ageing. Third new oak. **Petit Rouge** ★★★ Merlot (60%) & cab on appealing **09** blend. Plum fruit with rhubarb tang. Pecan nut spice & light pepper note too. Alc 13.5%. **Chardonnay** ★★★★★ Polished **08** last yr showed a steely edge to citrus fruit & oak vanilla, crisp minerality in seamless wood (yr, seasoned). **Sauvignon Blanc** ✓ ★★★★★ Powerful gooseberry, thatch aromas on **10** preview. Vibrant, zippy grapefruit tang over gravel & flint. Long, full & complex. Up notch on **09** (★★★★). **Sweet Carolyn** ★★★★★ Excellent muscatled straw wine. **06** last ed an apricot & honey indulgence, bright limy acidity & pithy flick in tail. Delicious! — FM