

## Vondeling



Location: Paarl ■ Map: Paarl & Wellington ■ WO: Voor Paardeberg ■ Est 2001 ■ 1stB 2005 ■ Tasting, sales & tours by appt ■ Owner(s) Armajaro Holdings UK ■ Cellarmaster(s) Matthew Copeland (Jul 2007) ■ Winemaker(s) Matthew Copeland (Jul 2007), with William Mofokeng (Jan 2005) ■ Viticulturist(s) Julian Johnsen (Aug 2000) ■ 467ha/40ha (cabs s/f, carignan, grenache r/w, malbec, merlot, mourv, p verdot, shiraz, chard, chenin, Muscat de F, sauv, viog) ■ 250t/150,000cs own label 48% red 49% white 3% rosé ■ Other export brand: Signal Cannon ■ PO Box 57 Wellington 7654 ■ admin@vondelingwines.co.za ■ www.vondelingwines.co.za ■ S 33° 35' 45.7" E 018° 51' 6.4" ■ **T +27 (0)21-869-8595** ■ F +27 (0)21-869-8219

This British-owned Voor Paardeberg winery has been pretty low key in the 11 years since it was first purchased. No longer. A marketing team is now in place, production will move across the road to the erstwhile David Frost cellar once the purchase is approved, and then there'll be a tasting room and bigger cellar. And there are hints that a boutique hotel and restaurant might be on the cards.

★★★★ **Sauvignon Blanc** 🍷 🍷 Vibrant hit of lemon & grass, **11** maintains tone of **10** in its flinty minerality & succulence. Long finish.

★★★★ **Babiana** 🍷 Well-crafted 4-way chenin-led blend, naturally fermented & no added acid. Complex **09** lime marmalade fullness, body & breadth yet dances lightly on oak stage.

★★★★ **Petit Blanc** 🍷 🍷 **11** (★★★) fig & pear on easy-drinking mix of chenin, viognier & chardonnay. Tangy & fresh but less impressive than vibrant **10**.

**Erica Shiraz** ✓★★★★ **08** repeats dashed of grenache, carignan, mourvèdre used in **07** (★★★) to better effect. Dense, rich mouthful of earthy beetroot & plum spice. Dark intensity balanced by fruit purity & third new oak. Lengthy. **Baldrick Shiraz** 🍷 🍷 ★★★ Plush **10** is savoury & spicy with chunky body. Less sleek than previous but serious nonetheless. Dabs mourvèdre & viognier. **Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot** ✓★★★★ **07** a notch up on **06** (★★★★). More rounded, nuanced black fruit & cigar spice. Svelte & sexy. Lovely depth & softness. **Petit Rouge** 🍷 🍷 ★★★ **10** continues **09** appeal. Plum & berry from 60/40 merlot/cab mix, pepper twist on gently rounded body. **Chardonnay** 🍷 🍷★★★★ Elegantly restrained **09** keeps the serious intent. Orange blossom mingles with vanilla & honey from oak (33% new). **Sweet Carolyn** ★★★★★ Excellent muscat-led straw wine. Last reviewed **06** an apricot & honey indulgence, bright limy acidity & pithy flick in tail. Delicious! **05** (★★) noted previously as funky. — FM