

STONE, VINE & SUN

WINE MERCHANTS

South Africa: The Next Chapter

Introducing our new portfolio from the Cape



Introducing our fantastic new South African portfolio

South Africa has always been an important part of the SVS portfolio since the very early days but new blood was long overdue and this is our first South African list for five years.

Last September, the country's triannual vinous jamboree CapeWine took place, a week of tastings and events surrounding a three day trade fair in Cape Town. It was the perfect opportunity to head out to the winelands to hunt down some new wines.

I knew I was going to find some brilliant wines but what surprised me was just how good the wines were and just how many fantastic new producers are on the scene. Whittling our list down to the wineries featured here was not an easy task.

Stones, Vines & Sun: Cape Terroir

We have always sought out wines with a sense of place that reflect the land where the grapes were grown. Standing amongst the gnarled old bush vines on the Du Bois's Sonop farm on a warm spring morning with my feet in the rocky, shale dirt, looking across to Table Mountain and False Bay, was a reminder that South Africa does stone, vine and sun as well as anywhere in the world.

New, small producers continue to appear and drive up quality

Ten years ago a now famous tasting took place in London showcasing a wave of brilliant young Cape winemakers who were taking on the bigger, established wineries by producing small scale wines from uncelebrated terroirs.

Those young guns of 2016 have now grown up and are starting to be challenged by the next wave of winemakers coming through. Gabriël Du Bois from Du Bois Vineyards is a great example, as are Carlo Suter and Kolja Stürmer from Eight Gates.

It is all great news for drinkers as South Africa always has something new and exciting to discover.

Old Vine Chenin the Star

South Africa has a centuries long viticultural heritage but less than 6% of its current vineyard area is more than 35 years old. As the drive for quality increases, interest in these older vines has grown and the country's admirable Old Vine Project (OVP) is doing great work celebrating, protecting, and promoting these precious vineyards. One simple way they are doing this is adding certification to the labels of old vine wines showing the years the vines were planted.

Of the 5000 hectares of old vines recognised by the OVP, half are Chenin Blanc and the wines they produce are outstanding with a concentration, depth and balance that is utterly compelling. By comparison, there is just 178 hectares of old vine Cinsault still in production making the wines they produce very special indeed.

"The World's Best Value Fine Wines"

Finally a word on price. Several of the wines we have selected are in the £20+ bracket and while this is partly driven by exchange rates and punitive UK wine duty rates, it is true that prices have risen in South Africa too as demand for the fruit from the country's best vineyards increases every year. Our request here is to see the wines in a wider context. As one respected merchant and winemaker put it to me over a glass of old vine Cinsault, "South Africa makes the world's best value fine wines". We couldn't agree more.

We hope you enjoy discovering these wines as much as I did.

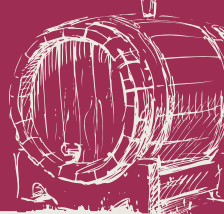
Gareth Groves
April 2026

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South Africa Mixed Cases

A brilliant way to discover our new range whilst saving over 12% on regular bottle prices.



The Springbok Summer Dozen

Code: SSD26 - £158



Includes 2 bottles of each of the below wines

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Cape White Wine Dozen

Code: CPWW26 - £185

Includes 2 bottles of each of the below wines

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Cape Red Wine Dozen

Code: CPRD26 - £195





Includes 2 bottles of each of the below wines

 Cecilia, Old Vine Cinsault, Piekenierskloof, 2025.....	p.16
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South African Fine Wine Dozen

Code: SAFW26 - £290

Includes 3 bottles of each of the below wines

 Du Bois, Sonop Old Vine Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, 2024.....	p.10
 Cecilia, Pinot Noir, Ceres, 2024.....	p.20
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Key to the Wines:  Sparkling  White  Red  Rosé  Organic

South Africa's Wine Regions

1. Stellenbosch

South Africa's most famous and arguably most important wine region, handily located for tourists just 28 miles from Cape Town. Surrounded by dramatic mountain scenery, the vineyards lie on rolling hills from Helderberg in the south to the lower slopes of Simonsberg in the north. The climate is warm and dry but moderated by the coastal influence of False Bay. Cabernet is the star of the show for reds with exceptional Chenin Blanc leading the way for the whites.

2. Polkadraai Hills

Polkadraai Hills is technically a sub-ward of Stellenbosch with its own Wine of Origin designation. Located just 13km from the coast, it is one of the Cape's cooler wine growing regions and its granitic soils are perfect for Syrah. Expect to hear a lot more about this region in the coming years as more and more top winemakers compete for the best fruit.

3. Ceres Plateau

Located over 1000m above sea level in Witzenberg mountains, Ceres is known for its dramatic day-night temperature variations, snowy winters and warm summers which produce intense, aromatic wines. The main limiting factor for future growth is the fact this is prime commercial fruit growing country and persuading growers to plant grapes instead of lucrative apples and pears is far from easy.



4. Piekenierskloof

Piekenierskloof, located to the north of Swartland, is home to old, dry farmed, vineyards some 550m–700m up in the Citrusdal mountains, source of some of the best and oldest Rhône grapes in South Africa, both white and red.

5. Robertson

Robertson is one of the largest wine regions in the Cape and historically has been an excellent source of high volume but still good quality wines. The whites are the picks here: it is our go-to region for value Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay in particular.

6. Hemel-en-Aarde Valley

The ‘Heaven on Earth’ valley is home to South Africa’s best Chardonnay and Pinot Noir having been put on the map by pioneers Hamilton Russell and Bouchard Finlayson. The valley stretches inland and uphill from Walker Bay and the whale watching town of Hermanus.



Key to the Wines:  Sparkling  White  Red  Rosé  Organic

Sparkling: Methode Cap Classique

Methode Cap Classique (MCC) is the name for traditional method sparkling wines from the Cape. They represent exceptional value for money compared to Champagne of similar quality.

Domaine des Dieux, Claudia, Methode Cap Classique, 2017

Code: DDD417
Bottle: £21.95 **6% off 6:** £123.80 **12% off 12:** £231.79

Domaine des Dieux's sparkling wines are characterised by the long bottle ageing before release. This adds breadth to the palate along with the brioche and freshly baked bread notes that complement the soaring citrus fruit. The 2017 is 80% Chardonnay and 20% Pinot Noir and it is absolutely at its peak. Compared to Champagne, the value here is extraordinary. 12%. Now-2028

"Spicy and fragrant (I find myself wondering if some of the wine might have seen a bit of oak?). It even smells a bit like crushed helichrysum and dried flowers. I could convince myself, easily, that this wine carries the fragrance of fynbos. But it also has layers of shortbread between mouth-wateringly super-ripe summer strawberries. White pepper, dried oregano and hay lifting the finish. This really does over-deliver at £20. It's more complex and interesting than the price suggests. GV 17/20" Tamlyn Currin, jancisrobinson.com, October 2024

Domaine des Dieux, Rose of Sharon, Methode Cap Classique, 2016

Code: DDD216
Bottle: £20.95 **6% off 6:** £118.16 **12% off 12:** £221.23

This is so pale that poured blind one would be hard pressed to deduce that it is actually a rosé. The colour fades with the long bottle ageing and the team at des Dieux refuse to add any darker wine with the dosage to boost the colour. Another superb MCC, we sold out of this before Christmas after it featured in Jancis Robinson's best sparkling wines for Christmas in the FT and received a **"Very Very Good Value"** on her website. We are delighted it is back in stock. 12%. Now-2028

"78% Pinot Noir, 22% Chardonnay. Pinot from Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge. No oak. 92 months on lees. Peach colour. Not that pink! Doesn't taste old. Nicely mature and neat. Quite frothy and not that much follow-through but so much interest for the money! VVG, 16.5/20, 2024-2027", Jancis Robinson MW, jancisrobinson.com 6th October 2025

Domaine des Dieux, Hemel-en-Aarde

Domaine des Dieux is a small estate just above Ataraxia at the very top of the valley in the Hemel-en-Aarde; the 'Domaine of the Gods' located in 'Heaven on Earth'.

The farm, with vineyards on the slopes of Babylon's Toren mountain, was bought in 2002, with an initial focus on making the first sparkling wines in Hemel-en-Aarde (and boy have they succeeded).

Megan Mullis and her mother Sharon are the driving forces behind the winery and the focus is on high acid sparkling wines mellowed with long bottle ageing and extensive autolysis, as well as classic Hemel-en-Aarde Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

I tasted dozens of Methode Cap Classique sparkling wines last September when I was in the Cape and very few could match those from des Dieux. Indeed a notable British wine merchant who has made wine in the Cape for many years told me they were the best he had tasted at the CapeWine trade fair. High praise indeed.





Domaine des Dieux's off-grid tasting room in Hemel-en-Aarde

Key to the Wines:  Sparkling  White  Red  Rosé  Organic

The Whites

Chenin Blanc

To my mind, South Africa's finest white grape. Available in a range of styles from fresh and zesty, it is at its best from old vines where the texture and depth of fruit is both complex and beguiling.

Goedverwacht, Great Expectations, Chenin Blanc, Robertson, 2025

Code: GDV725
Bottle: £11.25 6% off 6: £63.45 12% off 12: £118.80

2025 is a superb vintage in the Cape and this is a forward, zesty Chenin Blanc with notes of white peach and green apple. No oak - just refreshing, bright fruit all the way through. Very good on its own or with lighter pasta and seafood dishes. 12.5% Now-2027



Old vine Chenin Blanc

NEW Du Bois Family Vineyards, Stellenbosch

The Du Bois family have been growing vines on the shale soils of Koelenhof in Stellenbosch since 1931, but it took 93 years before they made their first wine. They named the farm Sonop ("Sun Up") to reflect the morning light that lands on the vines.

The farm covers a rectangular stretch of land that runs across the northeastern slopes of the Bottelaryberg, crossing the Plankenburg River and reaching toward the foothills of the Simonsberg mountains, extending from the outer edges of Stellenbosch toward the border with Paarl.

It's a very special place - as shown by the photo on the cover of this list. Local wisdom states that "a farm that can see Table Mountain is a good farm", not for the views but the cooling coastal influence such a location brings. Climb to the top of the hill at Sonop once the fog has cleared and you will get a brilliant view across to Cape Town's most iconic topographical feature.

Today the farm is managed by brothers Jacques and Gabriël du Bois, under the watchful eye of their

father, Gawie. Jaco Engelbrecht, one of the Cape's most influential, thoughtful and sought-after viticulturalists consults.

That coastal influence added to the rocky shale and granite soils, makes this prime terroir to grow Chenin Blanc. The farm has 20ha of precious certified Old Vine Chenin Blanc and has supplied many of the Cape's best winemakers for many years. If you've drunk a top-class, old vine Stellenbosch Chenin, then there is a very good chance at least some of the fruit came from Sonop.

The decision to make the first wine with a Du Bois label came from Gabriël, a young winemaker who spent four vintages as an assistant to Chris Alheit, arguably the finest Chenin Blanc winemaker in the world today, and himself a purchaser of Sonop fruit. Just 2000 bottles were produced in this, the first vintage, and we have secured 300 for the UK.

Blaauwklippen Estate Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, 2025

Code: BLK125

Bottle: £15.50 **6% off 6:** £87.42 **12% off 12:** £163.68

A fresher, vibrant style of Chenin Blanc from fruit grown in the Helderberg area of Stellenbosch. Winemaker Narina Cloete makes this as simply as possible: pick ripe fruit, lightly press the grapes, ferment in stainless steel and allow it to sit on lees for two months. The result is a wonderfully refreshing, zesty Chenin Blanc full of lemon-lime citrus and juicy white peach. A summery, vibrant wine at a very smart price that should please lovers of Sauvignon and Chardonnay equally. Just 12.5% alcohol too. Now-2028

Eight Gates, Chenin Blanc, Tulbagh, 2024

Code: EGT124

Bottle: £24.95 **6% off 6:** £140.72 **12% off 12:** £263.47

Just 1300 bottles of this wine were produced, the grapes sourced from a small, two hectare, south-east facing, vineyard planted in the early 1980s on very stony ground at the foot of the Saronsberg Mountain just outside Tulbagh. Aged in 30% new oak (the barrels comes from an exceptional tiny cooperage in Italy's Alto Adige), this is a textured, bright Chenin with vibrant stone fruit and citrus backed by spiced apple compote. The oak is beautifully integrated, adding breadth and weight without any hint of butter or cream. 13%. Now-2029



Key to the Wines:  Sparkling  White  Red  Rosé  Organic



Three generations of the Du Bois family

Du Bois, Sonop Old Vine Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, 2024

Code: DUB124
Bottle: £28.95 6% off 6: £163.28 12% off 12: £305.71

This is an exceptional Chenin Blanc, sourced from two parcels of bush vines planted in 1982 and 1986. Such is the quality of the fruit that the Du Bois family have long been the go-to grower for many of South Africa's top winemakers when they are searching out Chenin for their flagship whites. The family's client list reads like a who's who of Cape winemaking.

This is the first wine the family have produced under their own label. Just 2000 bottles were produced in this, the first vintage, and we have secured 300 for the UK.

The grapes were whole bunch pressed and then fermented with natural yeasts in old, neutral 400 litre barrels, spending eleven months on lees to add weight and texture. The result is a very fine, restrained, Chenin with orange blossom and herbal edges to the apricot fruit. There's a delicious ginger note in there too. The concentration that you only find in old vine Chenin is superb and the wine has beautiful mid-palate weight without any heaviness

or oaky flavours. Delicious now – especially given an hour or so to breathe – it will age very well too. It's a wine with a fast growing reputation in the Cape (the first vintage sold out within month of launch) and we expect it to be increasingly sought after elsewhere too. 13%. Now-2033

"This Old Vine Chenin Blanc offers up beautifully classical aromatics of warm rain on granite, dried straw, fynbos and lemon blossoms over more seductive white peach, fresh stem ginger and green apple fruit nuances. Initially very nervy, slightly reductive and tight fisted on opening as you would expect with a young 2024 wine, the perfume and fruit slowly unfurl, offering up something extra each time you nose the glass. The steely tension and linearity initially shape the palate but given a few hours to unwind, the wine shows the vintage's archetypal effortless concentration and seamless glycerol texture with classical restraint. Deliciously saline with mouthwatering acids, the wine remains taut, racy and incredibly precise with a long, persistent honey and pear laden finish. Still embryonic, so lock this Chenin Blanc up in the cellar and revisit with interest in 2 to 3 years' time. A phenomenal maiden release, Gabriël du Bois is definitely an exciting new young talent to watch very closely. Drink from 2027 to 2038+ .95/100",
Greg Sherwood MW, [gregsherwoodmw.com](https://www.gregsherwoodmw.com)

Sauvignon Blanc

The UK's favourite white grape thrives in the Cape and produces clean, fruit-forward wines that offer a lot of value compared to those from New Zealand.

Goedverwacht, Great Expectations, Sauvignon Blanc, Robertson, 2025

Code: GDV225
Bottle: £11.75 6% off 6: £66.27 12% off 12: £124.08

This is deliciously bright and focused, probably because the vines are grown on the estate's most calcareous land. Very bright and fruity with tangerine, passion fruit and gooseberry notes. Lovely weight and balance too. 13%. Now-2027

Cape Atlantic, Sauvignon Blanc, 2025

Code: CED625
Bottle: £13.75 6% off 6: £77.55 12% off 12: £145.20

About two thirds from the young Sauvignon parcels at high altitude Cederberg, plus a third from the Ghost Corner vineyards at Elim near the southernmost tip of Africa in the Agulhas Wine Triangle. Elderflower perfume. Juicy citrus flavours with an underlying note of nettle. A vibrant and precise Sauvignon with a definite stony finish. 13%. Now-2027

Goedverwacht, Robertson

Goedverwacht translates from Afrikaans as *good hope* or great expectations, hence the labelling. The du Toit family farm no less than 172 hectares of vines giving economies of scale along the bends of the Breede river near Bonnievale. The wines are made by father Jan in collaboration with son Gawie. Jan once firmly stated his place in the world of wine in South Africa: *"I farm for money, not with money"* distinguishing himself from all the supermarket owners, luxury goods merchants, bankers, jewellers or golfers who have bought wine estates in the Cape. The birds on the labels are blue cranes. *Antropoides Paradisea* is the national bird of South Africa, once commonly sighted in the Breede River Valley but now an endangered species.



Chardonnay

Chardonnay is grown across the Cape and is made in all styles and at all price points. The best come from areas with a distinct coastal climate, such as the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley near Walker Bay but there are delicious, joyful examples from Stellenbosch and elsewhere too.

Goedverwacht, Great Expectations, Chardonnay, Robertson, 2024

Code: GDV124
Bottle: £11.75 **6% off 6:** £66.27 **12% off 12:** £124.08

Our favourite wine at this estate – a benchmark ever since we shipped the 2002 vintage. The grapes are fermented in tanks holding small French oak blocks; and a few months on the lees gives it a little fat. Cream and toast greet you on the nose. Well-textured for the price, bright and gently creamy, it makes an easy aperitif or an ideal partner to lightly spicy dishes. 13%. Drink this year



Tending the vines at Compagniesdrift

Compagniesdrift, Chardonnay, Western Cape, 2024

Code: CPD124
Bottle: £14.50 **6% off 6:** £81.78 **12% off 12:** £153.12

Made by Meerlust winemaker Altus Treurnicht, this is a juicy, fruit-forward, unoaked Chardonnay that offers immediate pleasure. White pears and apricot fruit with zesty lemon on the finish. Uncomplicated – in a good way – and very drinkable. A wine for simple, summery suppers. 13%. Now-2027

NEW Compagniesdrift, Stellenbosch

However beautiful the Cape winelands are one is never too far away from a reminder of the economic and social realities of modern South Africa, which makes businesses like the community-owned Compagniesdrift all the more important.

Founded in 2015, Compagniesdrift was launched by farm workers with ties to leading Stellenbosch wine properties Meerlust, Vriesenhof and Ken Forrester. The initial focus was a logistics business helping small wineries to store and distribute their wines.

The next step was to launch their own wines made by renowned Meerlust winemaker Altus Treurnicht. The Chardonnay is a fresh and fruity white, perfect for summer drinking with friends. The Cabernet-Merlot is a touch more serious but still packed with cassis and plum fruit.

Koelfontein Chardonnay, Ceres, 2022

Code: KOE622
Bottle: £16.95 **6% off 6:** £95.60 **12% off 12:** £178.99

A rich, buttery, full-flavoured style of Chardonnay from a block planted in 1987; about 1/3 matured in new barrels, 2/3 second fill. Seductive cream citrus and leesy aromas. Lime and melon, well-knit, with dairy and nutty accents. With freshness, opulence and decent drive and length, this delivers a lot for the price. 13%. Now-2027

Domaine des Dieux, Chardonnay, Hemel en-Aarde, 2019

Code: DDD119
Bottle: £20.25 **6% off 6:** £114.21 **12% off 12:** £213.84

The philosophy here – much like des Dieux's MCC sparkling wines – is to allow long bottle ageing to add complexity and balance to the wine. At seven years old, this is just hitting its peak at a time when most 2019 Cape Chardonnays are long past their best. The fruit is sourced from vineyards at the very top of the valley, cooled by breezes and the cloud attracted to the nearby Babylonstoren peak. All barrel-fermented (30% new French oak plus older barrels), but with well-integrated oak, it displays a terrific melding of cream, lime and toast flavours. A long standing SVS favourite and one of our best loved wines. 13%. Now-2028

Koelfontein, Ceres

The Conradie family, the seventh generation farmers who own Koelfontein, have abundant orchards but they also planted the first vineyard in the district, initially with Chardonnay, and they still only farm six hectares split between Chardonnay and Shiraz on the steep, south facing slopes of the Gydo pass just north of Prince Albert Hamlet.

They launched their own wine label in 2002, but it remains a small project without their own winery. The Chardonnay is made by the highly respected John Seccombe (of Thorne & Daughters) at Gabrielskloof; and the Shiraz by Danela Janse, who has recently taken over from Cape Winemaster Dewaldt Heyns at Shiraz specialist Saronsberg in nearby Tulbagh.


These wines exemplify perfectly how wines from the Cape so often sit between "Old" and "New" world styles: though both are well-oaked and full-flavoured, they also show restraint and balance.

The Ceres Plateau



And now for something completely different...

Piekenierskloof, Grenache Blanc, Piekenierskloof, 2024

 **Code: PIK124**

Bottle: £16.25 6% off 6: £91.65 12% off 12: £171.60

Grenache Blanc is a grape that turns up in many SVS whites from the Rhône, Roussillon and Catalonia. Here it turns up with an Afrikaans accent from dry farmed vines planted 700m above sea level in the Citrusdal Mountains. Mediterranean grape varieties thrive here and this has citrus and white flower aromas with juicy pear and red apple on the palate. 12.5%. Now-2027

"Like clouds of ripe pear - textural, airy and juicy. The white grenache grows high in the Citrusdal mountains, north of Swartland. Gorgeous with porky, hammy or fishy food." Victoria Moore, **The Daily Telegraph**, 5th December 2025

Newton Johnson, Albarino, Upper Hemel-en-Aarde, 2024

 **Code: NJV124**

Bottle: £19.95 6% off 6: £112.52 12% off 12: £210.67

Many non-Spanish Albarinos fall rather flat but not this one. Gordy Newton Johnson is incapable of making a dull wine and this is zingy and bright whilst also having beautiful weight of fruit on the palate. It is unmistakably Albarino and yet quite different from those of Galicia - a triumph. 13.5%. Now-2028

"Peaches and peach stone. But also pretty nippy and tight on the finish. Mouth-watering, pithy-pip bitterness and a salty tang that is perhaps more quinine than marine. Texture like thick citrus peel and the scent of orange blossom lingering on the finish. These NJ Albariños must surely be some of the best of this variety outside of Galicia." 17.5/20, 2026-2032, Tamlyn Currin, **jancisrobinson.com**, October 2025



Old vine Grenache in Piekenierskloof



Key to the Wines:  Sparkling  White  Red  Rosé  Organic

The Reds

Cinsault

Cinsault has a long history in the Cape – it is one of Pinotage’s parents after all – but is only now being treated as a grape capable of producing serious wines in its own right. Often light in colour, they balance perfumed red fruit with a wilder fynbos (think garrigue) character. We are big fans.

Cecilia, Old Vine Cinsault, Piekenierskloof, 2025

Code: CEC625

Bottle: £22.75 6% off 6: £128.31 12% off 12: £240.24

Made from a plot of old vines planted in 1976, this beautifully, pure, unforced Cinsault is distinctly lighter than the Eight Gates release below. Fermented in large, old, 500 litre barrels with natural yeasts it is pretty and perfumed with floral strawberry notes on the nose that follow straight through on to the gentle but concentrated palate. Sappy, refreshing and very long. An excellent red for long summer evenings, especially served ever so slightly chilled. 13%. Now-2030

Eight Gates, Cinsault, Breedekloof, 2024

Code: EGT624

Bottle: £24.95 6% off 6: £140.72 12% off 12: £263.47

This is from a four hectare plot on Carlo’s home farm in Breedekloof. 50% whole bunch fermentation, aged for nine months in oak barrels of varied ages and sizes. Slightly darker and more full-bodied than the Cecilia Cinsault, it has bramble, dark cherry and violet fruit alongside notes of dried wild herbs – the locals would term this ‘fynbos’ and it is similar to the ‘garrigue’ notes of the Languedoc. A serious Cinsault that will take on venison or other game beautifully. 13%. No –2031

NEW Cecilia, Rawsonville

The wines of Cerina van Niekerk are no stranger to SVS as for several years she was the winemaker at Piekenierskloof. Cerina now has her own project which ties together two of her passions: wine and music.

Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians and the sales of these wines supports the Cecilia Foundation which provides music education and therapy to underprivileged children and adults in communities and schools across the Cape. It’s a very good cause underpinned by excellent winemaking.

Cerina sources the wines from farms and parcels across the Cape matching grape and location to produce the gentle, unforced, dare we say andante, style she prefers. Cerina has raided her old contacts in Piekenierskloof for the grapes for her crystalline Cinsault and then headed to the Ceres Plateau where she is one of a small number of winemakers to spot the potential for excellent Pinot Noir.



Cerina van Niekerk of Cecilia

Syrah / Shiraz

Two names for one grape and the word on the label often gives a clue to the wine inside. Wines labelled Shiraz – like that from Koelfontein – are bolder, brasher and richer. Those with Syrah on the front tend to be from cooler climates with an emphasis more on floral, spicy fruit and elegant tannins. The growth of Syrah over Shiraz is one of the clearest changes in South African wine in recent years.

Koelfontein Shiraz, Ceres, 2021

Code: KOE721
Bottle: £21.50 **6% off 6:** £121.26 **12% off 12:** £227.04

Very much Shiraz not Syrah: it's about as shy and retiring as a Springbok lock forward. Aged for 20 months in French oak, it has ripe black fruit and coffee aromatics. So bold and vibrant, delivering a gorgeous gush of blackberry and dark plum. Manages the delicate balancing act of being both juicy and oaky at the same time. Fully ripe tannins. Very long. Cries out for beef or lamb, grilled or roasted. 14.5%. Now-2027, **Limited Availability.**

Eight Gates, Syrah, Polkadraai Hills, 2024

Code: EGT724
Bottle: £25.95 **6% off 6:** £146.36 **12% off 12:** £274.03

This wine is made in minuscule quantities – just 54 18kg boxes of grapes were picked, all in one March morning. The vineyard itself – known as Jacob's Ladder for its steep slopes – is on the Karibib Farm in the Polkadraai Hills Ward just outside Stellenbosch.

The Polkadraai Hills is well known for its decomposed granite soils which are perfect for Syrah – just as they are in the Northern Rhône. Famous names such as Reyneke and Carinus source their Syrah here, as well as several young garage winemakers.

I had tasted this several times before a bottle arrived at SVS HQ for our final selection tasting. Out of all the wines we tasted, this was the bottle Simon grabbed immediately afterwards to take home for dinner.

Still very primary in colour, it has a beautiful pure, floral nose that jumps out of the glass. It couldn't be anything but Syrah. Medium-bodied on the palate it has fine tannins with layers of ripe red fruit (raspberry, Victoria plum), hints of lavender and twists of white pepper. Elegant and very refined and very highly recommended too. 13%. Now-2032

NEW Eight Gates, BreedeKloof

Eight Gates is all about Kolja Stürmer and Carlo Suter, two friends who met over thirty years ago while attending the German International School in Cape Town. Kolja went on to have a career in finance, Carlo stayed closer to home on his family farm in BreedeKloof becoming a viticulturalist, winemaker and cooper, supplying several famous winemakers such as Peter Walser of BlankBottle with exceptional fruit.

The pair always said they'd launch their own wines one day, and a couple of years ago they finally got round to it.

The grapes are sourced from the Suter family farm plus other parcels the boys have secured in exciting wine regions such as Tulbagh and the Polkadraai Hills. Each one is made in minute quantities.

One of the secrets of the wine's success is the oak. Carlo's background as a cooper led him to work with the tiny Mittelberger co-operative in the Dolomites in Italy. He had searched Europe for the oak he wanted for his wine and this was it. He even goes over each year to identify specific trees for future barrels and to make some of the Eight Gate casks himself.

The Mittelberger casks do seem to have properties unlike the more traditional French and American oaks, adding texture more than flavour, integrating superbly into the wines.



Carlo (left) and Kolja (right)



Cabernet & Merlot

Bordeaux red grapes remain core to many South African reds, especially in Stellenbosch which remains one of the world's best terroirs for these grapes.

Six Hats, Cabernet Sauvignon, Western Cape, 2024

Code: SIX824
Bottle: £13.50 6% off 6: £76.14 12% off 12: £142.56

Piekenierskloof's 'estate' Cabernet is an old SVS favourite that unfortunately is now rarely made as the winery focuses on Grenache, Pinotage and Tannat. We did, however, manage to snap up some of their Six Hats Cabernet and very good it is too. It has juicy ripe fruit and soft, approachable tannins. An easy and fun Cape Cabernet that is well-made and very well priced. Perfect with barbecued sausages or halloumi. 13%. Now-2027

Compagniesdrift, Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot, Western Cape, 2022

Code: CPD622
Bottle: £17.50 6% off 6: £98.70 12% off 12: £184.80

A very good Stellenbosch based Cabernet-Merlot that has more than a nod in style to Bordeaux's right bank. Medium-bodied with blackcurrant and spice from the Cabernet and plums and raspberries from the Merlot. Lovely dark core of fruit but lifted and fresh too, 7 months in 300 litre cask has added depth and weight. Very well balance and food-friendly. Claret lovers take note, particularly of the modest 13% alcohol. Now-2028

Blaauwklippen Estate Merlot, Stellenbosch, 2024

Code: BLK624

Bottle: £17.95 **6% off 6:** £101.24 **12% off 12:** £189.55

It has been a while since we had a varietal Merlot in the list but this one made the grade when we did our final selection – perhaps because it actually contains 15% Petit Verdot which adds depth and complexity. Aged for 18 months in old (3rd fill) oak barrels to soften the tannins without dominating the ripe, juicy damson and mulberry fruit. Will be a fine match for beef. 14%. Now-2029.

Blaauwklippen, De Blaauwe Klip, Reserve Bordeaux Blend, Stellenbosch, 2020

Code: BLK720

Bottle: £28.25 **6% off 6:** £159.33 **12% off 12:** £298.32

For all the changes on the South African wine scene, one thing hasn't changed: Stellenbosch still makes exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux blends. This is Blaauwklippen's top red and this vintage is made of 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Cabernet Franc, 26% Malbec, 13% Petit Verdot and 5% Merlot. Powerful and full-bodied, it is rich and glossy but not overly oaky (just 36% of the casks were new). Cassis, plum and blackberry fruit shines through alongside notes of cocoa, graphite and spice. A classic Cape red that demands red meat. 14.5%. Now-2032

NEW Blaauwklippen, Stellenbosch

The name Blaauwklippen translates as 'Blue Stones' in honour of the granite outcrops in the vineyard and the estate's story begins in 1682 when Dutchman Gerrit Jansz Visscher was granted the land by Stellenbosch's founder Simon van der Stel.

Vines were planted almost immediately and the farm – now owned by Willem Niel, a descendent of French Huguenots – recorded its first vintage in 1709. It is the oldest wine estate in Stellenbosch and became South Africa's first registered company.

Today Narina Cloete is in charge of the winemaking, a role she has held since 2016. Under Narina's stewardship the wines have improved steadily and showcase plenty of Stellenbosch character. The estate wines – we have shipped the Chenin Blanc and Merlot – are great value and full of varietal typicity. The flagship red De Blaauwe Klip is a big Bordeaux blend full of rich fruit and polished oak.



Pinot Noir

A few years back, it was just a handful of wineries in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley producing good Cape Pinot – and they still do a terrific job. However, the scope for Pinot plantings is changing and areas like the Ceres Plateau are now producing wonderful examples.

Domaine des Dieux, Josephine Pinot Noir, Hemel-en-Aarde, 2021

Code: DDD621
Bottle: £21.95 6% off 6: £123.80 12% off 12: £231.79

Hemel-en-Aarde is *the* place for Pinot in the Cape and des Dieux's Josephine cuvée becomes more complete and refined with every vintage as the vines ages. 100% French oak, about a third new. Attractively ripe, overt strawberry and cherry fruit flavours and more fruit aroma than oak with a delicious savoury edge to the finish. Roast duck would be an excellent match. Now-2028

Cecilia, Pinot Noir, Ceres, 2024

Code: CEC724
Bottle: £27.50 6% off 6: £155.10 12% off 12: £290.40

Hand-harvested grapes are naturally fermented in large open-top barrels with 10% whole bunch included. After a gentle press the wine rests in old oak for 14 months before bottling. This is a serious Pinot Noir that expertly treads the line between the ripe fruit expression and the delicate, finely wrought texture that marks out the best examples of the grape. Redcurrants and raspberries to the fore with subtle spicy notes adding complexity. Balanced and long. Very fine. 13%. Now-2030

NEW Newton Johnson, Hemel-en-Aarde


Located in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley near Hermanus, Newton Johnson is a small, family-owned winery with a big reputation. The winemaking is in the hands of husband and wife team Gordy and Nadia, with Gordy's brother Bevan running the business side of the operation; foregoing his love of surfing and mountain biking to travel the world telling the story behind the wines.

I was lucky enough to sit down for an hour with Gordy and Bevan in Cape Town, squeezed in between their other tastings. The wines – especially the single vineyard Pinot Noirs – are exceptional. These are wines with presence, grace and remarkable purity. They are not inexpensive, but with the price of Burgundy these days, neither are they undervalued. White wine lovers should check out the superb Albarino, which might just be the best example outside of Galicia.






Newton Johnson, Windansea Pinot Noir, Upper Hemel-en-Aarde, 2024

 **Code:** NJV224
Bottle: £42.50 **6% off 6:** £239.70 **12% off 12:** £448.80

A stunning single vineyard Pinot Noir from a 2ha parcel with clay soils that give a bigger, broader wine than its sibling the Seadragon. Incredible depth with warm red berry fruit, clove and allspice. Structured but satin-like beneath the tannins. Young, long and very impressive. Reminiscent of very good Gevrey-Chambertin. 14%. Now-2032

"Definitely more luscious. Hibiscus, peony, red plum and raspberry, but fat juicy succulent strawberries rather than alpine strawberries. Really luscious fruit, tannins are suffused, blushing. Sumptuous. 17.5/20, 2026-2034", Tamlyn Currin, jancisrobinson.com, October 2025

Newton Johnson, Seadragon Pinot Noir, Upper Hemel-en-Aarde, 2024

 **Code:** NJV324
Bottle: £42.50 **6% off 6:** £239.70 **12% off 12:** £448.80

Delicate, almost ethereal Pinot from a parcel of granite and sandstone soils at a lower elevation than the Windansea. If the latter is Gevrey, then this is Volnay: pretty, perfumed red fruit; squashed strawberries and just picked cherries. Ripe and juicy but balletic too. 14%. Now-2032

"The smell of this wine ... I am smitten. Strawberries and so succulent and so exquisitely perfumed it halted me. How on earth can tannins have so much tensility and strength and yet be weightless? How can fruit be so sweet and forward and yet a wine be so not fruity? Dryad wine. Long and shape-shifting. 17.5/20, 2026-2034", Tamlyn Currin, jancisrobinson.com, October 2025



Piekenierskloof, Piekenierskloof

Piekenierskloof, located to the north of Swartland, is home to old, dry farmed, vineyards some 550m–700m up in the Citrusdal mountains, source of some of the best and oldest Rhône grapes in South Africa.

Much of those highly sought after grapes are supplied by the eponymous Piekenierskloof winery, now owned by brothers Oubaas and Potgieter van Zyl, third generation descendants of the first family to plant vines in the area. Indeed they can remember as schoolboys helping their father plant the first Grenache at Piekenierskloof in 1973.

Today the winery produces excellent Grenache (both red and white), Pinotage and Tannat.

Pinotage

South Africa's unique red grape – the lovechild of Pinot Noir and Cinsault – celebrates its 100th birthday this year. I tasted some wonderful New Wave examples out in the Cape and perhaps we will ship some of those in the future. In the meantime we love the brawn and guts of Piekenierskloof's versions.

Six Hats, Pinotage, Western Cape, 2023

Code: SIX623
Bottle: £13.75 **6% off 6:** £77.55 **12% off 12:** £145.20

Made by the Piekenierskloof team, partly with their own fruit and partly some bought in – hence the Western Cape designation. Ripe, juicy Victoria plum and blackberry fruit with hints of hoisin sauce, damsons and a twist of black pepper. Medium-bodied and very easy drinking. 14%. Drink this year.

Piekenierskloof, Pinotage, Piekenierskloof, 2023

Code: PIK423
Bottle: £19.25 **6% off 6:** £108.57 **12% off 12:** £203.28

Sombre purple. Powerful and spicy – a big wine for a steak or any barbecued meat. Blackberry and dark plum fruit, heated but not jammy. Hint of beetroot and a dark chocolate note from oak ageing. Intense. Good backing tannin and plenty of fresh vigour. 14.5%. Now-2028

Grenache Noir

Rhône varieties have thrived in South Africa in recent years, driven by the 'Swartland Revolution' when a bunch of (then) young and up-and-coming winemakers burst on to the scene. Some of those garagiste winemakers sourced their Grenache from the oldest plantings in the Cape – not in Swartland but next door in Piekenierskloof where the van Zyl family planted the Cape's first Grenache back in 1973.

Piekenierskloof, Grenache Noir, Piekenierskloof, 2023

Code: PIK823
Bottle: £18.95 **6% off 6:** £106.88 **12% off 12:** £200.11

From vines averaging over 25 years old, but incorporating parcels going back to 1973; all into old, effectively neutral, oak. Soft red hue. Cherry-scented, dusted with vanilla. Luscious raspberry and red cherry fruit. So expansive – just flowers on the palate. Perfect fresh acidity and very soft tannins. Delightfully transparent; and with that lowish alcohol level, this is gentle and pleasurable to drink. 13.5%. Now-2027

South Africa (and Summer) Tasting

Thursday 11th June - 6.00 – 8.15pm

Hurford Hall, Stockbridge Town Hall, High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6HE



Join us to taste through all our new South African portfolio

alongside a range of wines from elsewhere that are perfect for summer
– including lots of brilliant rosés.

£15 a ticket with 10% off all bottle prices ordered on the night plus our special festive case discounts. One ticket price refundable against an order of £150 or more.

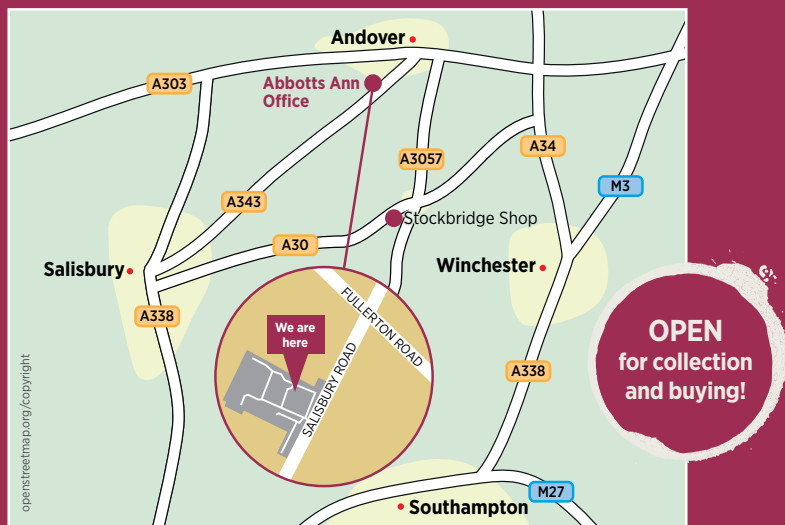
Key to the Wines:  Sparkling  White  Red  Rosé  Organic

Stone, Vine & Sun Abbotts Ann (Office & Warehouse)

Opening hours: Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm

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Phone: 01962 712351 Email: sales@stonevine.co.uk

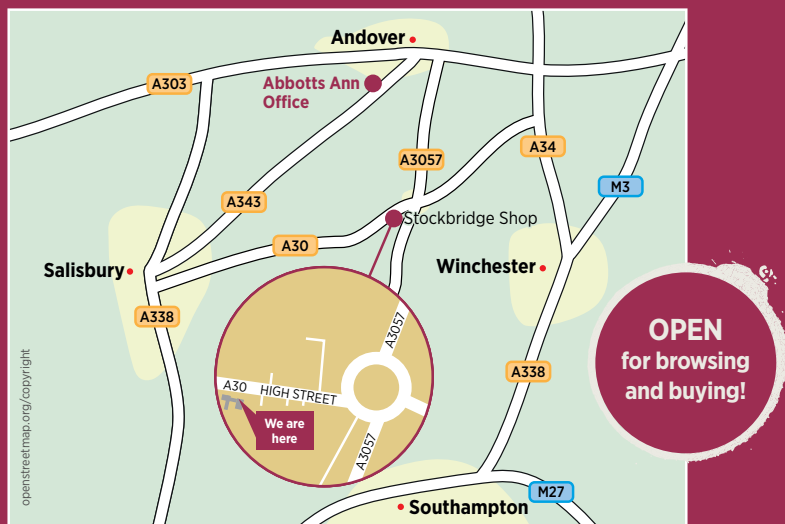


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