

Avontuur Wine Estate

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GPS; S34°1'33.2"E018°49'23.8"

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Owner(s): Taberer Family

Winemaker(s): jan van Rooyen

WO; Stellenbosch

Horses are key here, racing wise especially, they are the heart of a popular restaurant and winery with great panorama, a haven off the busy R44.



Vintage Score best drinking

MCC Brut

RR

Light gold with persistent fine mousse, not overtly bready and fresh fruited.

NV 82 1-6 years

Sparkling Rosé

R

Heavily scented and deeply pink carbonated wine, dry, simple and short-lived, but fun.

NV 78 1-2years

Sauvignon Blanc

R

2012: watery hue, full green nettle nose, zesty but with touch overt acidity.

2014: lighter styled, with crisp citrus notes and a punchy, dry finish.

2017: again, lighter and more flinty, with feint tropical notes and a finer palate.

2018: heavier than previously, with sweet grapefruit and citrus notes, rounded acidity and a dry, mellow tropical hint finish.

2008 85 2008-2014

2012 76 2012-2017

2014 85 2014-2019

2017 84 2017-2023

2018 86 2018-2026

2019: forward and vibrant asparagus, passion fruit and some classic notes, perfumed, bold and ripe and very vigorous.

2019 89 2019-2028

2020: clean and fruity nose, lots of passion fruit and herbs, nice weight and accessibility.

2020 88 2020-2027

Sarabande (Sauvignon Reserve)

RR

2010: pale straw, shy nose then medium weight yellow stone fruits with creamy hint.

2010 82 2010-2018

2013: overt green fruit nose then rich and creamy palate from long lees contact. Warm and with some complexity.

2013 88 2013-2020

2014: hints of oak on a fruity, citrus based wine, with fuller tropical notes at the weighty, round finish.

2014 87 2014-2020

2015: mid-way between citrus and tropical fruited, with a mellow mouthfeel and pleasant finish.

2015 88 2015-2024

2017: straw hue with oaky, but not vanilla based, nose, tropical fruit richness nicely defined and restrained.

2017 88 2017-2026

2018: straw rich, overt creamy nose then a full white pear palate, smooth, layered and compelling, very nice. The best yet.

2018 91 2019-2028

Luna de Miel Chardonnay

RRR

2008 86 2008-2018

2010: mid gold but with oak only showing on palate. Subtle, classy and beautifully balanced.

2010 90 2010-2022

2013: huge fruit notes, butterscotch, vanilla, peaches and cream all lush and intense.

2013 90 2013-2022

2014: more precision than '13, but still rich, oaky and full-on, now with clean citrus peach finish.

2014 90 2015-2024

2015: difficult to assess through a blanket of oak, dry, sinewy and masking the fruit. Maybe

2015 92 2015-2023

will settle. Tasted at age 4 and now superb, beautiful balance.		
2016: overtly creamy and rich on the nose and palate, delicate tropical notes and clean finish.	2016 88	2016-2026
2017: mid gold hue, vanilla notes and creamy feel, soft and full, with stony viognier lift. Enjoy younger.	2017 87	2017-2026
2018: oaky nose and full creamy fruit salad palate, precise and clean despite its richness, fresh if brief.	2018 90	2019-2028
2021: soft and full and with a smooth mouthfeel, gentle yellow and exotic fruits, long and elegant.	2021 90	2021-2029

Rosé Pinot Noir/Chardonnay R

	2008 81	2008-2013
2012: shy nose and pale colour, green fruits with softened finish.	2012 74	2010-2018
2014: hint of colour on a perfumed, stylish wine, with softened acidity and ripe stone fruit notes.	2014 88	2014-2020
2017: pale copper hue with nicely rich mouthfeel, quite tactile and fresh tropical hints.	2017 85	2017-2023
2019: pale red hue, expressive red cherry flavours with dry crunchy.	2019 86	2019-2025
2020: cherry red with overt cherry and red berry nose, a touch confectioned but nicely dry finishing.	2020 86	2020-2026

Vintners Blend R

2012: salmon red and very dry. Fruity red berries.	2012 75	2012-2017
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Minelli Reserve RRR

	2009 90	2010-2019
2010: touch high acidity giving slight bitterness on an otherwise rich and layered quality wine. At seven years old, showing balance and class.	2010 90	2014-2020

2011: sappy oak, spice and savoury red berries, quite rustic and very New World.	2011	88	2012-2022
2012: bold and ripe, with layers of sensuous fruit, deft oak and persistent, a lovely wine	2012	92	2014-2025
2014: still layers of clean, fresh fruit, little fading at age 5, silky cherry fruit, nicely sappy and distinguished, focussed and very classy.	2014	92	2016-2027

Legal Eagle Cabernet Franc

RRR

2008: at ten showing a tawny rim, porty nose and earthy, mocha notes, still powerful and lovely.	2008	90	2009-2019
2009: at eight still fresh and fynbos fruited, with leaner and finer attack	2009	90	2010-2020
2010: oak support and full flavoured, with rich minty red berry fruit avoiding any greenness.	2010	91	2012-2022
2011: shy nose, dark fruited, blackcurrant and spice, very dry and compelling.	2011	88	2011-2022
2014: soft and juicy, with ripe dark blue fruit, touch jammy, but nice drinking.	2014	88	2015-2025
2015: slight tertiary development, some leather and tomato leaf with fynbos and mint, but lashings of smooth berry fruit, cedar and luxury. A real step up.	2015	93	2017-2028
2017: very deep ruby, rich nose with a hint of hedgerow green shoots and lush berry fruits, dusty and mellow.	2017	92	2019-2029

Baccarat

RRR

	2005	88	2007-2018
2008: aging beautifully, with soft lush fruit and perfumed long finish. A touch leafy with prunes.	2008	91	2009-2019
2009: mint aromas over cassis in a classic, elegant and structured wine with balance and aging ability.	2009	92	2009-2022
2010: translucent hue with overt dark fruit and burnt oak nose, spicy, bright and classy.	2010	91	2011-2022
2012: Cabernet Franc led, with herbaceous and	2012	91	2013-2025

red berry notes, generous and ripe.			
2014: glossy health at age six, black berried nose, lip-smacking grip and rustic warmth, cigar box, forest fruits and leather, lovely.	2014	92	2016-2027

Pinotage RR

	2003	85	2004-2014
	2008	87	2009-2018
2014: deep purple hue, perfumed and silky blue fruit ripeness, very nice.	2014	87	2014-2024
2017: exuberant and juicy, with herb and blackcurrant layers in a forward and friendly manner. Drinking nicely young.	2017	88	2017-2027

Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot RR

	2004	84	2004-2012
	2005	88	2006-2015
	2008	84	2009-2018
2011: deeply hued with jammy nose. Tannic and dry and might stay that way.	2011	85	2011-2019
2012: black fruits and hint of mint on a mid depth and mid weight wine, with rich, satisfying fruit.	2012	87	2012-2020
2015: slightly odd and assumed faulty, as a style it shows dry, sinewy wood notes, some musty sawdust and leaner, subdued fruit, possible Brett?	2015	80	2016-2023
2017: very deep with a forward, fruity nose, juicy mouthfeel of supple blue fruits, harmonious and friendly.	2017	88	2018-2028
2019: ruby mauve hue, perfumed nose, juicy pliant dark fruits with dusty tannins and dry finish.	2019	88	2019-2028
2020: deep and glossy, with violets and stewed plum nose then warm and generous mixed fruits, finishing dry and with structure.	2020	89	2021-2029
2021: tertiary aging notes on a young wine, briar and herbs with leather, not a good sign.	2021	86	2021-2027

Cabernet Sauvignon

RR

	2003 85	2004-2013
	2007 84	2007-2018
2009: big extract and dry, fruity nose. Lovely balance and soft, ripe finish.	2009 89	2010-2020
2012: plummy soft fruit with vanilla notes and some smoky meatiness.	2012 88	2013-2021
2014: nicely balanced elements, with noticeable tannins but lots of fruit and smoky hints.	2014 86	2014-2024
2016: sweet, ripe fruit perfume, plum and earth notes, forward style yet with a careful touch and long finish.	2016 90	2017-2028
2017: approachable and supple, with berry driven mid-weight, blackberry and hedgerow red fruit charm.	2017 90	2018-2029

Shiraz

RR

	2005 90	2006-2019
	2008 85	2009-2018
2011: just medium depth, overt blue fruit nose, quite perfumed with an oaky savoury bite on the finish.	2011 87	2011-2021

Dominian Royale Shiraz Reserve

RRR

	2008 90	2009-2019
	2009 89	2010-2020
2011: deep purple hue, shy nose and soft, ripe black fruit basis. Not as forward but nicely balanced.	2011 90	2011-2022
2012: sumptuous and packed with smoky bacon, plum and spice. Full yet with some elegance.	2012 93	2014-2025
2014: deep purple, with ultra-dry grippy attack, spicy with white pepper, needing time.	2014 89	2015-2026
2015: opaque purple depth, serious nose then	2015 92	2017-2028

squashed mulberries, caramel, mocha lozenge-like
silky sweet fruit, bold yet classy.

Above Royalty

RR

2009: sweetly infused rich plummy fruits with good balance. Delicious chilled.	2009	86	2009-2020
2017: natural sweet and low (9%) alcohol on mildly perfumed and light feeling wine. Too easy to drink.	2017	86	2017-2025
2018: warmer due to higher alcohol at 11%, pale straw and squashed apricots and peaches, nicely poised.	2018	86	2018-2026