

Delaire Graff Estate

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 Owner(s): Laurence Graff Winemaker(s): Morné Vrey
 WO: Stellenbosch / Swartland/Coastal/Western Cape

Luxury lifestyle hotel, restaurant and wine estate, offering opulent settings and tastings ranging to R350 apiece.



Vintage Score best drinking

WC Sauvignon Blanc

RR

2011: grass and asparagus, fresh and crisp with lemon and green apple and mineral hints.	2011	84	2011-2017
2012: very pale with pungent and textured attack. Bold and satisfying.	2012	84	2012-2018
2014: watery hue, lightish, green citrus punch with creamier finish.	2014	83	2014-2021
2017: pleasing crisp attack, with salty, dry palate and stone fruits.	2017	87	2017-2025
2018: almost colourless, with lots of crunchy green citrus fruits, quite precise and very fresh.	2018	86	2018-2027

Coastal Sauvignon Blanc

RR

2011: touch of lime hue, some CO2 spritz, big bold refreshing and quite weighty. Not flimsy.	2011	87	2011-2018
2012: a bold wine with heaps of flavour and very refreshing.	2012	86	2012-2018
2017: firm, bright with a mix of citrus and yellow fruits, interesting and compelling.	2017	88	2017-2027
2018: very pale green tinge, with hugely overt aromas of lemon and fresh green fruits, chunky and zippy.	2018	87	2018-2028
2020: steely wet pebbles with crisp if muted	2020	87	2020-2028

citrus notes, dry, forceful and nicely pungent.

Swartland Chenin Blanc

RR

2011: overt nuts and honey, quince, tropical undertones, layered, long and absolutely delicious.	2011	93	2012-2019
2013: lacks the weight of '11, with a lighter, delicate fruit profile. Fresh and will improve.	2013	84	2013-2020
2014: light style, accessible with opening nutty taste and brief finish.	2014	84	2014-2021
2015: barrel hints, good structure with savoury green chewy notes, needs time.	2015	86	2015-2028
2016: very pale, chunky, full flavoured green apple, with rich and clean expression.	2016	88	2016-2029
2017: just straw hued with tangy orange and squeezed Quince fruits, all apple crisp and just mid weight.	2017	86	2017-2029
2018: shy nose but richly textured mouthfeel, green apple and quince and dried apricot, lip-smacking and layered.	2018	92	2019-2030
2019: straw sheen with a honey and hazelnut nose, dry yet staying crisp and opening to marmalade and mealies, very nice.	2019	92	2020-2030

Chardonnay

RR

2011: vanilla, lemon and pear nose, rich, full bodied yet soft, warm and fulfilling. Still needs to settle.	2011	89	2012-2019
2012: showing young and brash, but with lots of oak and strong tropical flavours. Needs time.	2012	86	2012-2020
2014: very pale, oak hints with a friendly palate but somewhat fleeting.	2014	84	2014-2021

Summercourt Chardonnay

RR

2016: lightly oaked, crisp and with expressive but nicely balanced citrus fruit.	2016	86	2016-2026
2017: bright mandarin, pear and cream, nimble and vibrant but with enough weight and gravitas to be very fine.	2017	89	2017-2027
2018: pale lemon tinge, delicate tropical fruit nose, quite yeasty with stone fruit and apple, bright and light.	2018	87	2018-2027
2019: similarly pale, with lemon and exotic warmer fruit nose, a hint of wood and if brief, nicely showing fresh passion fruit tones.	2019	88	2019-2028
2020: trademark pale, precisely fruited with supportive acidity, gentle tropical notes and rapier-like finesse, very nice.	2020	91	2021-2029

Banghoek Reserve Chardonnay

RRR

2018: deliciously forward and expansive, bursting with stone fruits, tangerine, white pear and herbs. Piercing and pristine and delicious.	2018	93	2019-2029
2019: full bodied, weighted with oak on the nose and palate, vanilla, herbs and tangy orange, rich but needs to balance.	2019	91	2021-2030

Terrace Block Chardonnay

RRRR

2015: lots of wood notes and creamy MLF, peach intensity and needing time, linear at present	2015	89	2016-2027
2016: all the bells and whistles, lots of white pear and peach impact, long and with supportive oak adding depth.	2016	90	2016-2028
2017: deep straw hue, weighty mealy nose then reserved exotic tropical fruits, balanced, clean and long and quite classy. Will improve.	2017	93	2017-2029

White Reserve

RRRR

2015: zippy acidity, mouth-watering citrus punch, touch watery and straightforward.	2015	87	2016-2026
2016: rich and layered yet with just enough acidity to press the yellow fruit and finty flavours forward.	2016	87	2016-2027

Empress Cabernet Franc Rosé

RR

2011: lustrous, healthy shine, dry strawberry fruit; crisp and simple.	2011	82	2011-2017
2012: bone dry and summery if a touch harsh and brittle.	2012	76	2012-2018
2017: red berry bite, with a savoury, herb edge and strawberry hints.	2017	83	2017-2025
2018: delicate tint with red strawberry fruit nuance, drier than the 2017, still clean and bright.	2018	85	2018-2027
2019: sweet pink confectionary nose, but crunchy dry red berry fruits on the palate, serious, but still fun.	2019	86	2019-2027
2020: characterful and fragrant, with lip-smacking acidity, dry rosewater and Turkish delight with an unexpected smoky bacon note.	2020	88	2020-2028
2021: tactile, very dry and savoury version, with grape tannins, dried strawberry fruits and a restrained, less fruity style.	2021	87	2021-2028

Banghoek Reserve Merlot

RRR

2015: very dark with intense and dusty fruit, still grippy, Morello cherry and blackcurrant.	2015	88	2016-2026
2016: mid-depth, mixed red berry nose then dry and chalky tannins of youth still, intense dark cherry flavours with briary notes, bold and seamless and needing time.	2016	90	2019-2029

Botsmaskop

RRR

2009: reserved nose then ripe, deep integrated fruit and tannins. Soft, lush blackcurrants and spice.	2009	92	2011-2019
2010: nice fruit with blue fruit salad notes, forward tannins and slightly less ripe depth than '09.	2010	88	2011-2019
2013: pale hue, oak dry bite with upfront fruit then dry, textured finish.	2013	86	2013-2023
2015: long, layered and with ripe, seductive fruit. An expressive and excellent wine.	2015	92	2016-2030
2016: shy nose, ruby and very soft fruit, intense and rustic, needing time to improve.	2016	88	2017-2028
2018: mid ruby, serious and richly layered, with very dry dark fruits and spice hint, warmly feral and uncluttered.	2018	91	2019-2029

Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve RRRR

2009: complex nose then a dry, layered palate which slowly exudes class. Needs time.	2009	92	2011-2020
2015: deep ruby, berries and cedar and mocha notes, long, layered and classy.	2015	92	2017-2029
2017: pre-release shows a clean nose then focused and elegant fruit, a juicy bite then dry finish, will be excellent and improve score.	2017	90	2020-2032

Shiraz RRR

2010: fruity, juicy and definitely New World. White pepper and black coffee, clean and approachable in a lighter style.	2010	85	2011-2019
2011: similar light, easy going and jammy style. Lots of juicy fruit and undemanding approach	2011	84	2011-2019
2013: just medium depth, lots of bold coffee and plum notes, rather shy presently.	2013	85	2013-2022
2015: red tinged, quite sexy, with mid	2015	88	2015-2028

weight fruit, bold but not unrestrained.

2016: mid depth and weight with smoky and juicy spicy fruit, smooth and easy.	2016	86	2016-2027
2017: smooth entry then lots of spice and black fruits with a chunky dry finish.	2017	87	2017-2028
2018: barely mid depth, very juicy and accessible, hints of white pepper and smoke, supple and lip-smacking, but disappointing aging potential of "2-3 years".	2018	88	2018-2025
2020: overt charred meat and wood nose, spicy dark fruits, not overly heavy, lacks some character.	2020	86	2020-2028

Laurence Graff

RRRR

2014: opaque depth, brooding nose, intensity and mixed fruit medley, nicely obscured oak, ripe, spicy and remaining elegant.	2014	91	2016-2029
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Sunburst NLH

RR

2015: mid gold with a delightful orange floral nose, fresh yet unctuous in the mouth, all mandarin and lemon, delightful.	2015	91	2015-2028
2020: rich and textured, with the classic dried fruit compote, not overly heavy, very amenable with puddings.	2020	90	2020-2030

Cape Vintage

RRRR

2015: opaque with sumptuous nutmeg, cloves and briar fruit intensity, smooth and satisfying.	2015	90	2015-2029
2017: liquid plums, sweet raisins and plum pudding, lighter and fresher style, not too hot, smooth and succulent.	2017	91	2018-2030