

Ernie Els

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Owner(s): E. Els & H. Von Staff-Reitzenstein

Winemaker(s): L Strydom

WO; Stellenbosch / Western Cape

Beautiful setting for this immaculate wine farm, not overly obsessed with golf, offering some very good wines and with luxurious relaxing areas and a great view.



Vintage Score best drinking

Big Easy White

RR

2011: all Chenin, pale green, light style, savoury green apples and melons, zingy acidity.	2011	82	2011-2018
2014: soft and full, with ripe apple notes, weightier than previously, if lacking precision.	2014	82	2014-2020

Ernie Els Sauvignon Blanc

R

2011: pale lemon, quiet nose, more tropical than herbaceous, supportive acidity.	2011	82	2011-2017
2013: slightly softened and textured, with easygoing green fruits.	2013	84	2013-2019
2015: light style with fresh green citrus notes, straightforward and pleasant.	2015	84	2015-2022
2017: mouth-puckering attack and acidity, with green herbal savoury firmness, rather uncouth and uncompromising.	2017	83	2017-2024
2018: fresh citrus fruits, very crisp and with some lees richness under the green precision.	2018	86	2018-2025

Big Easy Chenin Blanc

RR

2013: shy nose, gentle, tropical fruited for early drinking.	2013	83	2013-2018
2015: dry and chunky with citrus green fruits and a full lush finish.	2015	86	2015-2022
2017: green tinge, light and steely, citrus punch, pleasant and brief.	2017	82	2017-2024
2018: watery depth then overt tropical fruit nose and dry stone fruit mouthfeel with a pleasant viscous texture.	2018	86	2018-2026
2019: light and breezy, with passion fruit and fresh lemon note, more texture on the palate, brief but pleasant.	2019	87	2019-2027
2021: packed with dry, balanced gentle tropical notes with Rich Tea biscuits, red apple and nice texture.	2021	88	2021-2028

Big Easy Rosé

R

2015: dry palate yet sweetly fruited in a forward, sexy style.	2015	84	2015-2021
2018: faintly copper streaked with a red berry, serious nose, marshmallow, wild strawberry and dry cherry notes, taut and refreshing.	2018	86	2018-2024
2020: fresh tangy fruit from Cabernet Sauvignon, light, barely dry confected red berry tones, easy drinking.	2020	87	2020-2026

Big Easy Red

RR

2010: deep coloured, expressive nose of wild berries. Soft entry then leather and spice and ripe fruit. Nice balance.	2010	84	2011-2019
2012: perfumed red berry nose and palate, supple and enjoyable.	2012	85	2012-2020
2013: ripe, soft and smooth in a warm and comforting style, drinking young.	2013	84	2013-2021
2016: overt and juicy, rather syrupy, rustic dark fruit,	2016	83	2016-2025

pleasant, dry finish.

2017: mauve hue, overt and forward nose, juicy big fruit impact and very supple and accessible.	2017	86	2017-2026
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Big Easy Cabernet Sauvignon RR

2015: dark and a touch leafy, with softish tannins for Cabernet. Approachable and competent.	2015	84	2015-2025
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2017: inky depth, big mulberry and blackcurrant fruit impact, dusty wood tannins and full body.	2017	86	2017-2027
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2018: more red berried and bright acidity than a cassis version, with lively cranberry and raspberry bite, vanilla hint and needing some time.	2018	87	2021-2028
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2020: solid and muscular, with mocha dark tannins, winter fruit and some intensity.	2020	88	2021-2029
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Ernie Els Major Series Merlot RR

2010: mid ruby, fruity, foresty nose and savoury in the mouth. Tannic dominance points to long life, rich and broad on the palate.	2010	88	2014-2020
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2011: big, ripe flavours with bold tannins giving a slightly bitter finish.	2011	85	2011-2020
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2013: serious and dryly grippy, with dark berry fruit and hedgerow notes.	2013	84	2013-2022
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2015: bright and forward, pale cherry and red berry bite, just mid weight, finishes more juicy.	2015	84	2016-2026
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2017: red berry and game nose, dry and savoury, bright though nicely rustic, finishing more fruity.	2017	89	2018-2028
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Ernie Els Major Series Cabernet Sauvignon RR

2010: very deep, mulberry nose, brooding ripe fruit with overt tannins suggesting wait to drink. Will evolve and improve.	2010	88	2014-2023
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2012: lots of oak tannins over ripe, juicy fruit needing time to settle.	2012	84	2012-2022
2013: spicy and darkly fruited, not so oaky cassis, but with character and style	2013	87	2013-2025
2015: well-endowed and quite hearty, full of dried violets, cocoa powder and plummy fruit, layered and compelling.	2015	91	2017-2027
2016: quite pale, juicy and accessible, ripe fruit, dusty tannins, spice and dry finish.	2016	84	2017-2026
2017: inky deep, big fruited with chalky tannins, textured and serious with compelling rich fruit.	2017	91	2018-2028
2019: pale hue on a barrel sample, with pretty mixed dark fruits, still tight and very dry and yet to show.	2019	90	2021-2029

Proprietor's Cabernet Sauvignon RRR

2012: balanced and harmonious, with sweet fruit, invisible oak and silky mouthfeel. Needs time.	2012	90	2012-2026
2015: opaque, with overt forward nose, intense fruit concentration, lots of cassis and oak, long and lip-smacking. Will improve.	2015	92	2017-2030
2017: barrel sample is shy, with savoury spice and wood, somewhat rustic and charming, mid weighted and deeply fruited, will settle and shine.	2017	90	2021-2032

Proprietor's Syrah RRR

2010: opaque, violet perfumed nose, soft velvety tannins and pristine fruit. Touch of Viognier adds depth. A beautiful wine.	2010	95	2013-2023
2011: lacks the intensity and ripeness of '10. Well crafted and with quality spicy fruit bite.	2011	91	2012-2020
2012: Viognier perfume over sweet ripe plums and layers of flavour. Delicious.	2012	91	2014-2024

2013: consistently rich and ripe and drinking beautifully, with serious good fruit.

2013 91 2015-2026

2015: dusty plum nose, smooth and silky mouthfeel, just mid weight with classy, evolving flavours.

2015 92 2017-2028

Proprietor's Blend

RRR

2007 90 2010-2019

2010: deep ruby, cassis nose, mouthfilling, rich and very big. Tannins are harsh so hold for 2/3 years. Excellent potential.

2010 88 2014-2020

2011: big, bold fruit, big oak, big tannins and lots of rich plummy fruit.

2011 89 2013-2022

2013: muscular and bold, with grippy tannins and ripe, rich fruit, quite a big wine.

2013 90 2013-2026

2015: dark and intense, lip-smacking tannins with pencil shavings, herbs and rustic fruit. Still too young at 3 years.

2015 91 2018-2029

2016: bright garnet shine, smooth entry then lush mixed berry fruits, ripe and generous but staying elegant and focussed.

2016 92 2017-2030

Cirrus

RRR

2006 93 2008-2018

2007 90 2009-2017

Ernie Els Signature

RRRR

2004 91 2006-2019

2005 90 2008-2017

2008 90 2011-2020

2009: opaque, spicy shy dark fruit nose, sweet juicy fruit on the palate, lighter than expected, grippy and with layers of flavour.

2009 93 2011-2021

2010: elegant and layered with youthful tannic grip but showing its usual classy potential.	2010	93	2012-2022
2012: full bodied and rich yet delicately balanced and refined. Delicious.	2012	93	2013-2026
2013: garnet tinge, reserved tangy herb note, game and blackcurrants, silky and seductive. Deceptive power.	2013	92	2015-2027
2014: very dense and dark fruited nose, serious yet restrained palate, herbs, raspberries and mixed forest fruit.	2014	92	2016-2029

CWG Blend

2013: deep hue, simple fruit berry nose, restrained and closed at present.	2013	88	2013-2026
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