

Fleur du Cap

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Owner(s): Distell

Winemaker(s): Pieter Badenhorst

WO; Stellenbosch / Coastal / Western Cape

With Zonnebloem and Chateau Libertas in its stable, this is the wine the Bergkelder offers to visitors, and despite its wide availability and mid-price level, it includes some very fine wines indeed.



Vintage Score best drinking

Essence d'Cap (was Unfiltered) Sauvignon Blanc

R

	2008	88	2008-2012
2011: pale lime, soft nose then zesty fruit palate. A touch harsh in the mouth.	2011	82	2011-2015
2012: muted nose then fullish round flavours, competent if unremarkable.	2012	83	2012-2018
2013: slightly weightier than expected, with smooth fruit flavours and warm lemon zest.	2013	84	2013-2018
2014: clean, zesty without being aggressive, nicely weighted fruit, very appealing.	2014	85	2014-2020
2015: zesty green crunch with a softened, hazily creamy mouthfeel.	2015	84	2015-2022
2016: lighter feel, crisp and lemony and refreshing summer quencher.	2016	82	2016-2022
2017: again, very light and undemanding, as though turned down a notch, fresh yellow fruit, rather flimsy.	2017	80	2017-2023
2018: crunchy dry citrus and tropical mix with mineral backbone and straightforward fruit profile.	2018	84	2018-2024
2019: very pale with grassy citrus nose, wet pebble notes, with some tropical fruits opening slowly.	2019	85	2019-2025
2020: soft and dry, with greengage, lemon and green melon notes, pliant and enjoyable with just enough grip.	2020	85	2020-2026
2021: drier, tighter and more slate crunch than '20,			

with abundant crushed nettles and green fruit punch,
finishing lighter.

2021 87 2021-2027

Series Privee Sauvignon Blanc RR

2017: Sulphur nose then pungent herbal and
savoury notes, full and steely yet undemanding.

2017 86 2017-2024

Natural Light Chenin Blanc R

2017: seems Riesling like in florality and lime kick,
light body but full flavoured, texture and some
personality.

2017 84 2017-2024

Essence d'Cap Chenin Blanc R

2014: medium bodied, with white fruits
and orange, again softened and fullish.

2014 85 2014-2024

2015: smooth and rich, with a creamy
mouthfeel over fresh, exotic fruits. Very
Nice.

2015 84 2015-2025

2017: bold tangy nose, classic green texture, with
herb and marmalade flavours, finishing too quickly.

2017 87 2018-2026

2018: wood is nicely hidden behind crunchy dry
apple, peach pit and forceful if rather blunt
mouthfeel. Effective yet unyielding.

2018 84 2019-2027

2021: very dry stone, almost metallic, crunch with
gentle green apple freshness, light and brief.

2021 86 2021-2028

Series Privee Chenin Blanc RR

2017: straw hue, waxy honey and cream nose,
soft tropical fruits, finishing with sinew nicely.

2017 86 2017-2025

Viognier

RR

2010: light gold hue, shy nose of pears, only mid weight with light fruit and a slightly bitter finish.	2010	83	2010-2015
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Unfiltered Semillon

RR

2009: rich, weighty palate with creamy greengage and herbs. Soft, long finish, still improving.	2009	87	2009-2016
	2010	85	2010-2019

Unfiltered Chardonnay

RR

2010: creamy, buttery nose, soft tropical fruit but disappears quickly.	2010	84	2010-2018
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Essence d'Cap Chardonnay

RR

	2008	88	2008-2013
	2010	86	2010-2017
2011: shy nose, not overly oaked, mineral and lemons in an overt style.	2011	85	2011-2018
2012: expressive version, peaches and stone fruit with creamy basis. Oak dominant. Quite showy.	2012	85	2012-2019
2013: delicate and lovely balance of lemon/lime and subtle oaking. Not heavy, but cerebral and classy.	2013	87	2013-2020
2016: steely and firm, with stone fruit brightness, rather subdued and less floral, lots of mineral texture.	2016	86	2016-2022
2017: peaches and cream, gentle yet bright and always reliably satisfying, faintly tropical with enough acidity.	2017	86	2017-2023
2018: gentle vanilla hints on a bright and attractive	2018	87	2018-2024

tropical fruit medley, great initial promise but fades quickly.

2019: fruit driven with the merest hint of wood, clean tropical and yellow citrus led, falls away quickly, but very enjoyable.	2019	87	2019-2026
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Rosé

R

2020: pale salmon with the spritz of youth, gentle marshmallow and summer fruit pudding, ripe but nicely dry, all Victorian rose garden ambiance.	2020	86	2020-2026
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Essence d'Cap (was Unfiltered) Merlot

R

1999: tasted at age 15 and still showing silky fruit, complexity and great balance, defying recommended aging window.	1999	88	1999-2014
2012: chunky, bright entry but opens out and finishes with lush fruit, beautifully smooth and balanced.	2012	86	2012-2020
2013: deeply coloured, generous nose and intensely Cabernet-like with oak and plumpness.	2013	85	2013-2023
2014: powdery oak tannins and vanillin smother the rich fruit, maybe needs time.	2014	83	2014-2024
2016: competent and clean with typical mixed dark berry fruit, pleasant if unremarkable.	2016	83	2016-2025

Series Privee Merlot

RR

2016: deeply toned with mixed berry fruits, bramble and sweet wood tannins, full, chalky tannins.	2016	89	2017-2027
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Essence d'Cap Pinotage

RR

	2007	91	2008-2018
2012: medium depth and flavours match the aromas of smoky oak, burnt cherry and acetate.	2012	84	2012-2020
2013: bramble and spice and very smooth, an enjoyable wine with good balance.	2013	84	2013-2022
2015: warm and touch syrupy, with classic burnt plum notes	2015	82	2015-2024
2016: lush and dark fruited, liquorice, blackcurrant and plum, immediately full but fades quickly.	2016	85	2016-2025
2017: smoky nose, ripe and tangy dark fruits, juicy but with a firm grippy texture at the finish.	2017	87	2018-2026

Series Privee Pinotage

RR

2016: opaque depth, floral and sweet plum nose, vanilla hint, soft and enveloping feel, dryish and mellow.	2016	88	2017-2026
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Unfiltered Cabernet Sauvignon

RR

	2001	87	2002-2014
	2005	90	2006-2018
2010: rich nose of stewed mulberries and spice, dusty tannins and lush blackcurrant liquor flavours. A big wine.	2010	88	2010-2018

Essence d'Cap Cabernet Sauvignon

RR

2010: mid depth, bright juicy fruit in a simpler style. Lacks some complexity. Dry finish.	2010	85	2010-2018
2012: hints of red as well as black fruits in an accessible, rather fleeting, style.	2012	84	2012-2020
2013: lush, easy-going dark fruited,	2013	85	2013-2022

smooth and warming, ever consistent.			
2014: dark, spicy and challenging, if rather indistinct and lacking previous character.	2014	80	2014-2022
2015: dark and pencil shaving rich, forward and rather brutish at present, needs three years.	2015	84	2018-2025
2016: pretty and rather slight, with smooth, easy-going mixed fruits, pleasant if unremarkable.	2016	84	2016-2026
2017: softer again, lacking some backbone, but a crowd pleasing dark fruited currant medley, unmemorable.	2017	84	2017-2027
2019: finely grained tannins give way to a crystalline cassis note, deep and lush and great value. The best yet.	2019	89	2020-2030
2021: more accessible younger than the '19, with mellow fruit and less complexity.	2021	86	2021-2028

Series Privee Cabernet Sauvignon RR

2016: inky glossy depth, silky and perfumed plum and blackcurrant ripe fruits, pliant and friendly.	2016	90	2018-2028
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Essence d'Cap Shiraz R

2016: dark and mellow, easy drinking with rustic notes, hint of spice and mixed fruit.	2016	81	2016-2025
2017: dark and fleshy, like blackberry jam, perfumed with lilac, full and not spicy, quite lovely, and a bargain.	2017	88	2018-2028

Shiraz RR

2009: inky black and with lozenge like fruit flavours. Spicy, black forest fruits and supple tannins. Very attractive.	2009	87	2010-2020
2011: bitter black fruited, dry and with overt mocha and coffee bean oak. Lacks complexity.	2011	85	2011-2020
2012: huge mocha toasty oak to match huge	2012	88	2012-2022

black fruited, full bodied and sumptuous wine.

2014: big and bold with a tang of meat and herbs, but lacking usual complexity.

2014 84 2014-2024

Lazlo RRRR

2015: ruby-black, with gentle lavender hint, sombre and firm feel, bitter chocolate, oak and all in harmony and persistence.

2015 92 2018-2026

Noble Late Harvest 375m RR

2004 92 2006-2018

2006 92 2008-2020

2010: apricot and honey nose in a bright, fresh touch style. Layers of tangy barley sugar and totally enjoyable.

2010 92 2011-2020

2011: defies its sweetness level, offering tangy, fresh orange peel flavours. Delicious now and will improve.

2011 90 2011-2025

