

## Neil Ellis Wines

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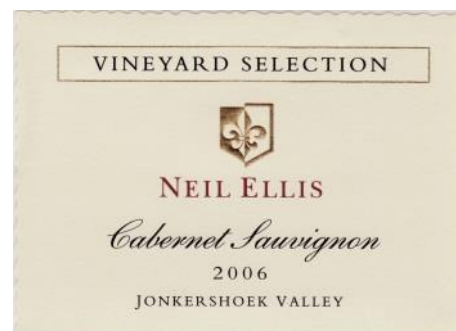
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Owner(s): Neil Ellis (Pty) Ltd

Winemaker(s): Warren Ellis

WO; Stellenbosch / Darling / Coastal/ Swartland



Selected fruit from all over, made in Neil and Warren's precise and pristine fashion, especially the renowned Grenache. Rather unprepossessing building but a warm welcome and some very unusual varietal combinations.

*Vintage Score best drinking*

### West Coast Sauvignon Blanc R

**2022:** pleasant mineral and salt bite, opening to a fuller palate of green and warmer fruit, terrific value.

**2022 87 2022-2027**

### Vineyard Selection Sauvignon Blanc RR

**2010:** oaky nose from barrel ferment then herbs and savoury citrus. Nice weight and layers of evolving flavours, quite lingering.

**2008 82 2008-2014**

**2010 89 2010-2017**

### Elgin Sauvignon Blanc RR

**2018:** distinctly steely and zippy, with warmth and weight in the mouth, fresh white peach notes, finishing fuller and with impact.

**2018 88 2019-2026**

### Groenekloof Sauvignon Blanc RR

**2008 82 2008-2011**

<b>2011:</b> classic nettles and grass nose then spritzzy acidity and cut granny smith apples. Fresh and clean.	<b>2011</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2011-2017</b>
<b>2013:</b> lighter style with bottle spritz and green, zesty flavours.	<b>2013</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2013-2018</b>
<b>2015:</b> crisp citrus green flavours, bright and clean if rather brief.	<b>2015</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2015-2023</b>
<b>2017:</b> very pale with fleeting citrus notes, a touch soft.	<b>2017</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2017-2025</b>
<b>2018:</b> quite weighty and fullish, with pale straw hue, lemon and lime notes, clean and fresh.	<b>2018</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2018-2026</b>
<b>2019:</b> translucent hue then green citrus, apple greengage punch, aromatic and lip-smacking.	<b>2019</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2019-2028</b>
<b>2020:</b> pungent classic cool climate cat's pee nose with crunchy citrus notes, dry and steely, with clean fruit purity.	<b>2020</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2020-2028</b>
<b>2021:</b> deliciously poised between mineral steel and rich green fruits, paired-back, elegant and very fine.	<b>2021</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2021-2028</b>

## Amica RRR

<b>2012:</b> classic nettles and gooseberry fruit and aromas. Strong and refreshing.	<b>2012</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2012-2019</b>
<b>2016:</b> subtle, subdued perhaps oak flattened, with stone fruits and lowish acidity.	<b>2016</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2016-2024</b>
<b>2017:</b> creamy and with wood sinew, tangy orange base and expressive fruit, still nicely balanced.	<b>2017</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2017-2026</b>
<b>2018:</b> light shine with ripe exotic fruit seduction, savoury herbs and creamy feel, a lovely texture. A stunning wine, the best yet.	<b>2018</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2019-2027</b>

## Op Sy Moer RRR

<b>2017:</b> unusual in appearance and varietals, with Grenache Blanc, Chenin and Palomino offering a savoury, herb and lemon tactile, light and easy wine.	<b>2017</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2017-2026</b>
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**2018:** incomparable, tactile and textured wine, jasmine and earth, lemongrass, herbs and straw, challenging, cerebral, gorgeous.

**2018 91 2019-2029**

## Stellenbosch Chardonnay

RR

	<b>2007 86 2007-2013</b>
<b>2011:</b> light gold, subtle tropical nose, vibrant lemony and pear fruit. Brisk and light.	<b>2011 87 2011-2018</b>
<b>2012:</b> lemony, citrus attack but lighter bodied and with youthful fizz.	<b>2012 85 2012-2018</b>

## Whitehall Chardonnay

RRR

<b>2016:</b> fuller bodied, with grip and oak structure over savoury fruit.	<b>2016 88 2016-2026</b>
<b>2017:</b> mid straw tint with lots of orange and lemon freshness, oak hint and savoury texture, very nice.	<b>2017 88 2017-2027</b>
<b>2018:</b> bright tangy orange aromatics, hazelnuts and stone fruit, layered and lively, very good.	<b>2018 92 2018-2028</b>

## Elgin Chardonnay

RR

	<b>2007 89 2008-2018</b>
<b>2014:</b> mineral and wet pebble notes over green fruit notes, quite textured.	<b>2014 85 2014-2022</b>
<b>2017:</b> perfectly balanced, with creamy oak support behind pristine stone fruits with a tropical exotic hint. Layered, compelling and rich.	<b>2017 91 2018-2027</b>

## Aenigma White

RR

	<b>2007 90 2008-2015</b>
<b>2010:</b> mid gold, overt grapey nose (from	<b>2010 91 2011-2018</b>

Muscat clone), vanilla, peach, kiwi all unfolding slowly. Drink young. Quite delicious.

<b>2012:</b> rich and savoury with lots of Viognier perfume and excitement under Chenin's bite.	<b>2012</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2012-2020</b>
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## Cinsault Rosé RR

<b>2020:</b> dry and assertive, with red berry and dried cherries, almost faulty nose of TCA despite being screw cap.	<b>2020</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2020-2027</b>
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## Aenigma Red RR

<b>2011:</b> big berry flavours in a rustic style for winter, grippy and full of forest nuances.	<b>2011</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2011-2019</b>
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<b>2012:</b> sinewy, beefy black fruit and spicy liquorice notes, definitely not shy, and loaded with flavour.	<b>2012</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2012-2021</b>
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<b>2013:</b> straightforward, juicy fruited wine, rich and spicy with instant accessibility.	<b>2013</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2013-2022</b>
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<b>2015:</b> spicy and dark fruited, rather bluntly forward and full, presently bold but will soften in time.	<b>2015</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2017-2025</b>
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<b>2016:</b> nicely balanced with quality oak making a full and generous, silky wine with lush fruits and some style.	<b>2016</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2017-2027</b>
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<b>2018:</b> inky hue with tactile moughfeel of smooth mixed berry and plum fruits, lush and vivid and accessible.	<b>2018</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2019-2028</b>
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## Piekenierskloof Grenache (was Vineyard Selection) RRRR

<b>2009:</b> midruby, thick dry strawberry nose, rich generous plummy fruit. Serious clean and elegant, will be better in 5years.	<b>2009</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2010-2025</b>
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<b>2010:</b> intense, big bold flavours with ripe	<b>2010</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2012-2025</b>
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fruit. More accessible than '09. Satisfying.

<b>2011:</b> heaps of soft, juicy strawberry fruit, soft, pen, will improve.	<b>2011</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2011-2023</b>
<b>2013:</b> big, soft, fleshy, with rich layered and lingering fruit. Delicious.	<b>2013</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2013-2026</b>
<b>2014:</b> lighter version, squashed strawberries, overt and appealing, with pristine fruit.	<b>2014</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2014-2025</b>
<b>2015:</b> pale garnet hue, cherry bite nose, sweet fruited and silky ripeness with grounded, earthy garrigue finish.	<b>2015</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2018-2027</b>

## Groenekloof Cinsault

RRR

<b>2014:</b> pale depth, fine tannins, crisply fruited, with elegance, persistence and charm.	<b>2014</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2015-2026</b>
<b>2015:</b> mid garnet, cherry fruit with some depth and a bright, seductive nose. Clean fruited and very pleasant.	<b>2015</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2016-2027</b>
<b>2016:</b> glossy and quite deep with smoky vanilla nose, dry chalky tannins and lush winter fruits, serious and delicious.	<b>2016</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2017-2028</b>

## Pinotage

RR

<b>2009:</b> deeply hued, dark berry nose yet light weight with grippy tannins and hints of raspberries and spice.	<b>2009</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2009-2017</b>
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## Vineyard Selection Pinotage

RRR

<b>2010:</b> vanilla oak and morello cherry with rich, sweet tannins. Lots of flavour, elegant; try if you don't like Pinotage. Needs more time	<b>2010</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2012-2020</b>
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**Bottelary Pinotage**

RRR

<b>2015:</b> intense dusty fruit, blue and blackberries, long, silky and with fine tannins.	<b>2015</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2016-2027</b>
<b>2016:</b> deep plummy nose, silky sweet ripe fruit, lush and sexy, with compelling mulberry and forest fruits. Wonderful.	<b>2016</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2016-2028</b>
<b>2017:</b> bright purple shine, lavender, banana hint and firm berry aromatics, juicy and feeling tight.	<b>2017</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2018-2028</b>
<b>2018:</b> a touch lighter than '17 shy still, but so much richer, softer and warmer, opening to layered elegance and lingering so.	<b>2018</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2020-2030</b>

**Rodanos**

RRR

<b>2009:</b> savoury black fruits with spice and game with Grenache velvety power.	<b>2009</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2010-2020</b>
<b>2012:</b> intense, spicy and herbal with big liquorice and cherry richness, soft and alluring.	<b>2012</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2013-2027</b>
<b>2013:</b> rustic cherry fruited with a meaty hint, raspberry, garrigue notes and sappy, structured and better with food, a classy wine.	<b>2013</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2016-2028</b>
<b>2015:</b> deeply tinted with forest fruits of blueberry and currant, not heavy yet bold and assertive. Ageworthy and always classy.	<b>2015</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2017-2028</b>

**Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot**

RR

	<b>2005</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2006-2012</b>
<b>2009:</b> farmyard nose which reveals sweet fruit and gentle oak, drink now as a touch fleeting.	<b>2009</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2009-2017</b>
<b>2016:</b> robust and deeply fruited, rather blunt but in a classic style, with cedar hint and	<b>2016</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2017-2027</b>

blackcurrant depth.			
<b>2017:</b> leafy and cedar noted, with sinewy red berry tones, fresh dry and balanced, finishing strawberry and currant ripeness.	<b>2017</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2019-2028</b>
<b>2018:</b> deep purple with cassis and blueberry fruits, easy-going and dry with dusky undertones and satisfaction.	<b>2018</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2019-2029</b>

## Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon RR

<b>2003:</b> at 15 years, slightly browning and tertiary, but still fruited, enjoyable and nicely balanced.	<b>2003</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2004-2019</b>
	<b>2005</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2006-2017</b>
<b>2009:</b> mid garnet, vanilla and cassis in a well crafted, easy style, offering simple pleasure.	<b>2009</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2010-2019</b>
<b>2012:</b> deeply hued, shy nose yet to open, hints of game and menthol with sweet vanilla oak.	<b>2012</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2012-2022</b>
<b>2014:</b> fine backbone, hints of green leaf and blackcurrants, firm and textured.	<b>2014</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2016-2027</b>
<b>2015:</b> deep and dark, with lush and silky mulberry fruit, wood hint and balanced tannins.	<b>2015</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2017-2029</b>
<b>2016:</b> charming sweet fruit perfume, cassis and ripe berries, supple tannins and lovely mouthfeel, very nicely crafted.	<b>2016</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2018-2030</b>
<b>2017:</b> lots of dry, dark fruit, balanced and seamless but still taut in youth, will improve.	<b>2017</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2019-2030</b>
<b>2019:</b> opaque depth on barrel sample, then opens to a full floral range with rich mulberry fruit, forward and lush.	<b>2019</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2021-2032</b>

## Jonkershoek Cabernet Sauvignon (was Vineyard Selection) RRRR

	<b>2005</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2006-2014</b>
<b>2009:</b> deep hue but shy nose of menthol and	<b>2009</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2011-2020</b>

peppermint. Grippy tannins need more time  
but this is sheer class; layered long and luxurious.  
Could be 95/100 in 5 years.

<b>2010:</b> touch leaner than '09, with quiet But potent fruit and elegant length.	<b>2010</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2012-2020</b>
<b>2014:</b> pure and clean fruit, all blueberries and cassis, satisfying and well crafted.	<b>2014</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2015-2028</b>
<b>2015:</b> deep ruby hue, brooding and tight still with overt berry and cedar aromas, needing time to be splendid.	<b>2015</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2017-2029</b>
<b>2016:</b> opaque and sensuous, blackcurrant and cooked plum perfumed, silky yet intense core, lush and complex, such power and finesse	<b>2016</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2018-2032</b>
<b>2017:</b> pre-release has overt nose needing time, then full bodied spicy dark fruit, rich if brief. Will change drastically.	<b>2017</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2010-2030</b>

## Groenekloof Syrah (was Shiraz)

RR

<b>2010:</b> sweet blackberry nose, fruity, juicy bramble and crushed fruit. Not peppery style.	<b>2010</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2012-2018</b>
<b>2013:</b> mid depth, dark fruits and spice with subtle oak and pleasant tannin bite.	<b>2013</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2014-2023</b>
<b>2016:</b> spicy grip and black fruit bite, deep and full and rustic, finishing softer and seductively.	<b>2016</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2016-2026</b>
<b>2017:</b> inky depth, richly fruited and sweetly perfumed nose, layered and intriguing from Cinsault addition, very compelling.	<b>2017</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2018-2028</b>
<b>2018:</b> opaque gloss, bright and juicily perfumed, dry dusty mulberry fruits, smooth and plump throughout.	<b>2018</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2019-2029</b>

## Vineyard Selection Shiraz

RRR

<b>2010:</b> almost opaque, vanilla and tar, smooth integrated tannins, fruit driven c offee and chocolate finish.	<b>2010</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2011-2019</b>
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## Insignium

RRRR

**2012:** dark blackcurrants and black cherry.

**2012 89 2012-2022**

Spicy, dry and grippy with some attack.

**2013:** just mid depth with elegant Tempranillo

**2013 91 2015-2024**

strawberry sweetness, savoury, herby and with great balance, nicely unmanicured and showing no fade at age six.

## Webb Ellis

RRRR

**2010:** inky hue, rich and lush with leather and game and ripe fruit over classy oak.

**2010 89 2011-2025**

**2012:** opaque, tertiary nose, savoury

**2012 93 2014-2029**

herbal notes then silky cassis, velvet complexity and length.

