

Radford Dale

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Owner(s): Dale, Openshaw, Labeye, Roberson, Whitman, Hill Smith

Winemaker(s): Jacques de Klerk & Gerhard Joubert

WO; Stellenbosch

Changes afoot at this complex of brand labels, with small production, committed staff and some stellar wines.



Vintage Score best drinking

Land of Hope Chenin Blanc RR

2017: taut and frisky, with crisp green apple classic notes, opening slowly.

2017 86 2017-2025

Land of Hope Pinot Noir Reserve RR

2018: soft and lush, with sweet silky red berry and strawberry hint fruit, nicely earthy and quite charming.

2018 89 2018-2028

Land of Hope Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon RR

2015: attractive blue fruited with spice hint, fresh and zippy with seductive ease.

2015 87 2015-2025

Good Hope Chenin Blanc R

2018: full mouthfeel yet crisp and finishing smoothly, lots of green apple and stone fruit depth, tangy and brief.

2018 86 2018-2027

2019: taut, sliced green apple, zesty yet its full flavours feel tasted through a veil, needs to open, will improve.

2019 86 2020-2028

Good Hope Chardonnay

RR

2018: yellow-green tint, lemon sherbet aromas, fresh and balanced with pristine orange peel and gentle tropical fruits.	2018	91	2018-2029
2019: a fresh and perfumed wine, with barely ripe peach and apricot notes, an exotic fruit layer with warmth from a leesy richness.	2019	88	2019-2029
2020: zesty and very bright, with tight citrus, kiwi and green summer fruit punch, quite bracing and unashamed.	2020	87	2020-2028

Good Hope Pinotage

RR

2018: whole bunch overt juiciness, shiny and attractive, ripe red berry fruit driven, clean and lovely.	2018	88	2018-2028
2019: just mid purple depth, juicy and forward blue fruits with plum, wholeberry freshness and deftness, pliant and fun.	2019	88	2019-2028

Good Hope Oceanside Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot

RR

2016: mid garnet and shiny bright, fresh acid lift, leather, blue fruit and wood nuances, cigar box and great focus.	2016	88	2017-2027
2018: ultra-soft and comforting, friendly simple style, juicy dark expression, not complex but entirely lovable.	2018	87	2018-2027

Good Hope Mountainside Syrah

RR

2017: fruit driven with smoky hint and rather angular tannin and acid balance, dark hedgerow fruit, less spicy and invisible oak.	2017	86	2018-2027
2019: forward and juicy, with black liquorice and blackcurrant oozing through, straightforward and enjoyable.	2019	87	2019-2028

Thirst Clairette Blanche White

RR

2015: pale and pungent, with unusually expressive Clairette and some chewy texture.	2015	87	2015-2022
2017: damp vegetation, wet earth and green herbs, full of personality, a wine to be savoured over time, delightful.	2017	90	2019-2027
2018: yellow tint, shy nose but showing dried grass and straw tones, rich and opening, with sage and mixed herb texture, interesting and with character.	2018	87	2018-2024
2019: pale straw, dry nosed with savoury herb and salty stone fruit opening in the mouth, textured and lingering.	2019	89	2019-2027

Thirst Cinsault

RR

2015: experimental style, showing bright, fresh fruit, silky and pleasing. Elegant and restrained.	2015	91	2015-2024
2019: pale ruby, very dry with dusty tannins, mixed rustic berry fruits, earthy and hearty but not heavy or extracted.	2019	89	2020-2027
2020: bright and shiny, with bold cherry flavours, fresh and vivid and ultra-clean, lovely fruit purity.	2020	89	2020-2028

Thirst Gamay Noir

RRR

2015: beautifully light hue, perfumed red berry fruit, smooth and elegant.	2015	89	2015-2022
2018: another glossy and seductive edition, lovely colour, perfumed cherry nose, dry and with fresh acidity, very pretty.	2018	88	2018-2025
2019: so pale and delicate yet lots of strawberry and hedgerow red fruits, juicy, forward and satisfying.	2019	89	2019-2028

Heritage (was Vinum) Chenin Blanc

RR

2017: oak savoury notes with textured yellow fruits and hint of cream.	2017	89	2017-2027
2018: shiny health and subtle orange and straw nose, waxy, full and layered, tangy and compelling, very nice and ultra classy.	2018	93	2019-2029
2019: damp straw nose, textured quince with delicious tension, character and power despite its 11.5% alcohol, just pure quality.	2019	91	2020-2030

Heritage (was Vinum) Pinotage RR

2019: barrel sample shows dusty masculine plum notes, perfumed and exotic, sensuous and powerful, quite delicious. Will improve.	2019	91	2020-2029
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Renaissance Chenin Blanc RRR

2017: oak notes and with depth, fullish but finishing fine and focussed.	2017	86	2018-2028
2019: very tightly knit, with fine yellow fruits, structured, clean and precise, lingering nicely and staying nimble.	2019	92	2020-2029

Chardonnay RRR

2013: chunky, rich flavours nicely balanced with lees and oak to finish with elegance and class.	2013	92	2013-2023
2017: mid depth, overt and crisp, no malo used, fine stone fruit and passion fruit tanginess, firm and classy and only 11.5% alcohol. Even better on the second day.	2017	92	2017-2027
2018: mid depth, gently oaked with creamy soft and tactile stone fruits and lime hint, rich and alluring.	2019	92	2020-2028

The Antidote Gamay RRR

2017: pale depth, fruity light nose, clean,	2017	89	2017-2028
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balanced and with pristine red berry fruit.			
2018: lustrous sheen, delicate fruited, not extracted but distinguished, opulent and very fine, it lingers so and shows Gamay's potential.	2018	93	2019-2029

Freedom Pinot Noir RRR

2014: harmonious and delicate yet with rich fruit follow-through and compelling texture.	2014	89	2014-2024
2016: glossy, lovely garnet hue, mocha wood, deep red berry fruit, long, focussed and layered. Gorgeous.	2016	93	2017-2028
2017: just mid depth, lustrous and with delicate strawberry notes, lacy tannins and piercing fruit purity, very special, if not quite the complexity and depth of 2016.	2017	91	2018-2029
2018: pretty and fresh, lighter style with reb berry and earth hint, classic and focussed and finishing deftly.	2018	92	2018-2028

Frankenstein Pinotage RRR

2013: dry finish over spicy dark shiraz-like fruit. Complex and tightly grained.	2013	89	2013-2023
2014: a product of its parents, lightly hued, silky, playful and surprisingly delicious.	2014	92	2015-2025
2016: shy nose, yet to unwind, clean blue fruit palate, just mid weight.	2016	89	2017-2027

Black Rock RRR

2011: mid weight with mixed berry and spice flavours and autumn notes. With some character.	2011	88	2011-2022
2013: Rich yet so elegant, balanced, complex yet open and sexy.	2013	93	2015-2025
2015: pristine fruit, fine and taut in a restrained, complex fashion, silky and	2015	92	2016-2028

rich.			
2017: just mid depth and opens slowly to show elegant and beautiful cranberry and mixed fruits with garrigue, fine,poised and fresh.	2017	94	2018-2029

Syrah RRR

2015: hinting at greatness, dry, weighty and with dark fruit and vanilla notes, needs time.	2015	88	2016-2028
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Nudity Syrah RRRR

2014: still feels tight, with silky dark fruit and light mouthfeel. Not a fruit bomb style.	2014	89	2016-2026
2015: more elegant, restrained version, with clean fruit, hinting at greenness, shiny and long. Will improve.	2015	88	2016-2028
2016: ruby purple hue, chalky plum notes, lazer-like blue fruit precision, whole bunch volatility, unusual and paired back.	2016	89	2017-2029
2017: glossy garnet, low alcohol (10.5%) yet overt unusual 'pared-back' version, bramble, green leaf, herbs, demanding attention.	2017	90	2018-2028

Gravity Shiraz RRR

2010: at eight years this is superb, perfumed, balanced, subtle yet remarkable, rich, tense and long.	2010	93	2012-2025
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