

Spier

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 WO; Stellenbosch / Paarl / Olifants River / Coastal / Western Cape



Large estate which seems constantly refreshing itself, remembered for its Cheetahs and birds of prey amongst expansive lawns. Wine range is exhaustive, but the commercial wines are consistently reliably good and the top wines are splendid, indeed.

Vintage Score best drinking

MCC Brut RR

2015: classic yeasty nose, minute mousse bubbles, fresh yellow fruits, lemony vibrancy yet retains richness, delicious	2015 89 2015-2025
2016: pale lemon shine, quite frothy, shy nose, not overly yeasty, citrus crisp mouthfeel, bright and refreshing.	2016 87 2016-2026

Signature Sauvignon Blanc R

2011: watery hue with overt notes of nettles and gooseberry. Silky smooth and quite mouthfilling.	2011 82 2011-2017
2012: consistent and cleanly made if unremarkable. Acidity and fruit in the right places.	2012 82 2012-2018
2013: nice green bite and fresh attack, if lacking some weight and complexity.	2013 83 2013-2018
2014: delicious juicy fruit and nice balance. Heaps of exotic fruit notes, mouthfilling and very moreish.	2014 84 2014-2020

2015: crisp green nose, lots of nettles, then more lushly tropical on the palate. Always good value.	2015	83	2015-2022
2016: full and creamy at first, lifting to rich yellow fruits and fresh, crisp finish.	2016	80	2016-2023
2017: similar weight and viscosity as previously, softened acidity and fruit salad flavours, reliable and pleasing.	2017	82	2017-2024
2018: lemon zest burst with some steely crunch, quite full and as ever, great value.	2018	83	2018-2025
2019: intense and quite full, brisk lime and green citrus notes, nicely balanced and very satisfying.	2019	86	2019-2026
2020: softer and more generous than '19, with melon, gooseberry and steely ripe fruit, easy to like.	2020	87	2020-2027
2021: fresh and crisper than the '20, with ripe gooseberry. And green apple citrus notes, clean and satisfying.	2021	87	2021-2027
2022: bone dry with a flinty, steel punch, green and very less-fruited, cool climate driven wine.	2022	88	2022-2028

21 Gables Sauvignon Blanc RR

2017: very pale, lots of tangy green citrus fruit, still grippy and assertive.	2017	87	2017-2024
2018: mid straw depth, bright and bold nose then exuberant palate, zesty mineral dryness and citrus notes, needs to open.	2018	88	2018-2025
2019: overt and very citrusy, classic cut grass notes, punchy and forward, clean and zesty.	2019	89	2019-2027

Creative Block 2 RR

2011: grass and nettle nose with the waxy richness of Semillon. Clean, citrus fruit, a creamy round feel and pleasant finish.	2011	83	2011-2017
2014: feels lighter than previous, with focussed white fruits and firm structure, richness helps the finish.	2014	85	2014-2023
2016: Semillon gives this wine richness	2016	86	2016-2025

and a savoury bite with yellow fruit and pleasing texture.			
2017: very pale with overt ripe fruit aromas, lemon and cream, zesty and full flavoured, great fun.	2017	87	2017-2027
2018: straw hue, firm and fresh, tightly holding feint tropical notes and brisk green citrus, some lees depth but needs three years to show. Will improve.	2018	87	2019-2028
2019: big, bold and textured, with dried yellow fruits and herbs, nicely balanced and lingering.	2019	88	2019-2028

Signature Chenin Blanc R

	2011	82	2011-2018
2012: pale lime, strongly flavoured green fruits and fresh cut green apple. Nicely zesty and with a malic bite.	2012	83	2012-2018
2013: more subtle than '12, with soft juicy pear and green apple. Supple and gently lingering.	2013	83	2013-2020
2014: intense citrus – almost Sauvignon like, with fresh savoury grip.	2014	84	2014-2022
2015: again, Sauvignon cut grass and pyrazines, grippy acidity only hinting at green apple Chenin on finish. Lively, rich, definitely a citrus style.	2015	85	2015-2023
2016: exotic perfumed fruit, intense and lemon meringue, but barely recognisable.	2016	84	2016-2024
2017: textured, rich and expressive, this is a huge improvement, really very good.	2017	88	2017-2028
2018: nicely weighted with gentle stone fruit and subtle tropical notes. Tempered acidity and smooth, rather close to a warm climate Sauvignon.	2018	86	2018-2028
2019: impressive initially, with zesty green fruit, lime and apple, fullish, but falls away with a tinny hint.	2019	86	2019-2028
2020: hugely fruity and compelling, full of juicy green tropical notes, melon, guava and crunchy apple, built for enjoyment.	2020	87	2020-2029
2021: clean and honest as ever, with crunchy green	2021	87	2021-2029

apple and herbs, nicely savoury and satisfying.		
2022: yet to show any tactile character, all crisp mixed spring fruits, charming and easy going as ever. Will improve.	2022	87 2023-2029
2023: Chardonnay-like tropical notes, soft fruits and gentle acidity, very friendly if lost.	2023	85 2023-2029

Private Col. Chenin Blanc RR

	2006	90 2008-2018
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21 Gables Chenin Blanc RR

2010: light gold hue, oak vanilla and nuts on the nose then full, weighty ripe fruit in the mouth with tangy herbs. Will be even better in 2/3 years.	2010	89 2012-2019
2012: lots of complex tropical fruit and green apple flavours with alluring texture. Balanced and long.	2012	93 2012-2022
2015: chewy wood tannins part to show tangy, rich fruit notes, complex and very long. Needs time.	2015	91 2015-2027
2016: light and somewhat delicate, finely tunes and clean yellow fruited, needs time to settle. Will improve.	2016	88 2018-2026

Signature Chardonnay R

2011: pale hue, expressive nose bursting with tropical fruit. Creamy and round in the mouth.	2011	82 2011-2017
2013: zesty lime and pear notes with Sauvignon like acidity. More green than tropical and again, refreshing.	2013	83 2013-2019
2014: nicely balanced with bold fruit attack, more focussed than previously.	2014	84 2014-2021

2015: reliably lemon-creamy with a firm touch, hint of metallic tank tasted, though.	2015	82	2015-2022
2016: says 'crisp and creamy', not sure it can be both, rather sluggish and lacking definition. Touch one dimensional.	2016	79	2016-2023
2017: more green than tropical, and again firm and withheld, refreshing more than comforting.	2017	80	2017-2024
2018: reverting to rather indistinct tropical notes, creamy hint and almost full bodied, as reliable as ever.	2018	84	2018-2025
2020: bright yellow stone fruit, refreshingly lively then showing a softer, creamy palate, taut and brief but always pleasant.	2020	86	2020-2027
2021: soft and round, with hints of caramel amongst yellow fruits, white pear and cling peaches, always easy.	2021	85	2021-2027
2022: brighter than the '21, with fresh summer florality, stone fruit and a hint of caramel.	2022	86	2022-2027

Private Col. Chardonnay RR

	2006	90	2007-2014
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Seaward Chardonnay RR

2019: shy nose, hint of wood but feeling bright and clean, citrus and soft creamy notes, easy-going and pleasant.	2019	88	2019-2026
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Frans K Smit White RRRR

2015: pale gold, reserved, light lemon and lime flavours, well balanced and fine but not as full and complex as expected.	2015	89	2016-2026
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Signature Chardonnay/Pinot Noir

R

2014: lowish alcohol red berry fruit melee, zippy and refreshing if straightforward.	2014	80	2014-2019
2015: summer fruit pudding of bright, forward fruit. Enjoyable quencher, for immediate consumption.	2015	80	2015-2021
2016: clean and sweet fruited, with strawberry jelly notes, if feeling somewhat syrupy.	2016	80	2016-2022
2017: more viscous, as 2016, with dollops of fruit and soft mouthfeel, but lacking the structure of acidity.	2017	79	2017-2023
2018: pink and pretty, but also with bite and some fibre. A very good example.	2018	83	2018-2024
2019: pale cherry with an overt nose of freshly sliced Turkish Delight and summer pudding, bold fruity palate finishing dry.	2019	83	2019-2025
2020: cherry-pink, nicely dry with feint summer red berries and lingering rose notes, clean and honest.	2020	84	2020-2026
2021: pale copper-rose tint, then rose water and red jelly notes, lip-smacking candied cherry dry finish, very nice.	2021	86	2021-2027
2022: lurid cherry red with lurid cherry nose, quite confected but saved by a crunchy dry finish.	2022	85	2022-2027
2023: again, quite coloured, with a dry, nondescript berry flavour, refreshing but doesn't linger.	2023	83	2023-2028

Merlot

R

2010: mid depth, red cherry notes then jammy juicy fruit and a dry finish.	2010	83	2010-2017
2012: rich hue but lightish mouthfeel. Good varietal honesty if a touch green.	2012	82	2012-2018
2013: reliably straightforward dark fruited and mouthfilling.	2013	82	2013-2018
2014: needs time to open, seems dry and	2014	82	2014-2022

vaguely spicy at first, then shows dark fruit notes.

2015: clean and darkly fruited, with nice integration and a pleasing richness.	2015	81	2015-2024
2016: reliably dark cherry fruited, touch of rustic bite, mid weight and easy on the palate.	2016	79	2016-2025
2017: soft and with vanilla notes and dark blue fruits, pleasant and good value.	2017	83	2017-2026
2018: unprepossessing juicy wine, mid-depth with mixed berry fruit, cherry and currant, a crowd pleaser.	2018	83	2018-2027
2019: competent, reliable and clean, with effective smoky dark fruit and juicy palate, if unremarkable.	2019	85	2019-2028
2020: more of a dark berry note than red, always supple, full and enjoyable and exactly as expected.	2020	86	2020-2028
2021: deeply fruity and very smooth again, mixed berries in a clean and competent manner if unmemorable.	2021	85	2021-2028

Sejana Merlot

RRR

	2005	95	2008-2020
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Signature Pinotage

R

2010: musty cherry and tobacco nose with juicy fruit over dry tannins. Medium weight and quite satisfying.	2010	85	2011-2018
2011: plump soft fruits with bitter dark chocolate and tobacco notes. Supple and very easy to drink.	2011	85	2011-2020
2012: overt New World style; plump red berry fruit and heaps of flavour. Definitely not shy.	2012	84	2012-2020
2014: forward fruit style with edgy blueberry note and robust flavours. Generous and enjoyable.	2014	84	2014-2022
2015: elegant and silky version, with a mocha slant and velvety tannins. Quite classy.	2015	85	2015-2026
2016: simpler and easier going than previously,	2016	82	2016-2026

with soft juicy dark fruits.

2017: soft and full bodied, with dark fruit and a touch of spice, very satisfying.	2017	83	2017-2026
2018: succulent and full, with juicy and soft plummy fruit, accessible and satisfying.	2018	85	2018-2-28
2019: dark and briary with a mocha charred oak note, abrupt and punchy to be enjoyed immediately.	2019	85	2019-2028
2020: smooth and fleshy as ever, with similar mocha coffee oak note over blue fruit, pleasant if unremarkable.	2020	86	2020-2028
2021: overt blueberry fruit in an easy, yet effective style, some spice lift and nicely earthy.	2021	85	2021-2028

Private Col. Pinotage

RRR

	2005	95	2008-2020
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21 Gables Pinotage

RRR

2009: opaque with a spicy leather nose then sinewy, quality fruit explodes. Dense, brooding and still needing 2/3 years to really show.	2009	92	2010-2019
2012: dark and brooding with delicious tempting nose and layered blue fruits. A keeper.	2012	93	2014-2025
2014: clean, fine, touch closed yet, but offering lush plum notes and seductive warmth. Another winner.	2014	90	2016-2027
2015: deep purple, rich plum nose, great balance, lush and sexy fruit palate, forward but with class.	2015	92	2017-2030

Creative Block 3

RR

	2007	87	2007-2019
2009: deep purple hue, perfumed nose then a silky smooth explosion of flavours in the mouth. Mulberry and leather, morello cherry and spice,	2009	93	2009-2018

drinking beautifully now.

2013: silky and elegant, with subdued but worthy fruit and a balanced, long, finish.	2013	91	2015-2024
2014: forward and expressive, full ripe fruit and layers of interest, very good indeed.	2014	92	2016-2026
2015: purple hue, sweet fruit nose, floral with plum notes, softish and attractive.	2015	89	2016-2027
2016: velvety ripeness, lots of vanilla, plum, liquorice, mulberries and cloves in a silky, alluring and compelling style. Fantastic wine.	2016	93	2018-2029

Creative Block 5

RR

	2007	86	2007-2017
2008: shy nose with drying tannins at first but suggesting deep, rich mulberry, cassis and pencil shavings bubbling under. Should be terrific in 2/3 years.	2008	90	2010-2019
2011: silky, rich and brooding, with quality fruit and an impact slightly lessened by a drying finish.	2011	90	2012-2022
2014: showing gamey, herbal notes, still tight and will reveal richness in time.	2014	89	2016-2025
2015: needing time to open, but hinting at cedar and cassis depth with firm structure.	2015	88	2016-2027
2016: big and chunky, quite rustic and a winter warmer, full of spice, dark currants and oak, needs a few years.	2016	91	2019-2029
2017: another robust and generous vintage, with deep plum and winter berry dark fruits, dusty tannins and a rustic feel.	2017	91	2019-2029

Farmhouse Red (was First Stone Organic Red)

RRR

2015: garnet red, full berry nose, grippy and spicy with agricultural notes and a full mouthfeel.	2015	89	2017-2027
2016: purple gloss, soft wood hint nose, then full and juicy New World plummy fruits, long and layered and	2016	90	2017-2029

very delicious.

Signature Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot/Shiraz

R

2013: almost porty dried fruit notes, saved by lush dark fruits and spice. Rather brief.	2013	84	2013-2021
2014: spicy, bramble, very black scented if a touch rustic and brutish.	2014	82	2014-2022
2015: overripe plums and damp leather, with a rustic, overt bite.	2015	80	2015-2024
2016: competent dark fruited and with some bite, if lacking individuality and distinction.	2016	79	2016-2025
2017: chunky and forward, with rustic burnt black fruit notes and bitter raspberry, effective and filling.	2017	84	2017-2026
2018: intense dark fruit and spice, liquid liquorice and blackberry, with feral forest notes, not elegant as the label says, but very satisfying.	2018	84	2019-2027
2019: an edgy and guttural version, full and spicy dark fruited with a rustic, untamed side, effective everyday wine.	2019	82	2019-2028
2020: ruby black pitch with smoky dark fruits, more supple and generous than the '19, accessible now and great value.	2020	86	2020-2029
2021: effective dark fruit with char and spice, if lacking anything to set it aside.	2021	84	2021-2028

Signature Cabernet Sauvignon

R

2010: rich nose with menthol aromas, then supportive tannins under lovely ripe cassis fruit. Balanced and long, a delightful wine.	2010	88	2012-2019
2012: bitter black fruit over a coffee bean oak frame, rather austere and brittle.	2012	83	2012-2019
2013: brash and forthright almost burnt black fruit, with jammy notes. Satisfying if short.	2013	83	2013-2020
2014: less jammy than previous, with lozenge-like fruit and similar burnt almost bitter hint.	2014	83	2014-2022

2015: consistently fruity and easy-going, with depth and grippy nature, if rather anonymous.	2015	80	2015-2025
2016: hearty and rustic, needs a steak pie and a farmhouse, comforting, deep and slightly rough.	2016	80	2016-2026
2017: cedar and bramble nose, smooth and syrupy, but not negatively, full and always consistent.	2017	84	2017-2027
2018: supple and dark fruited, with simple black fruits and an avuncular feel, pleasant but unremarkable.	2018	83	2018-2027
2019: more impressive than '18, with supple inky forest fruit, generous and scented, with a pleasant charred wood note finish.	2019	85	2020-2028
2020: soft and viscous, with some spice bite and fluffy tannins, easy-going if lacking some structure.	2020	84	2020-2028
2021: as soft, big hearted and luscious as ever, dark winter berries and nice integration.	2021	85	2021-2029

Private Col. Cabernet Sauvignon

RRR

	2005	95	2008-2020
	2006	93	2008-2019
	2007	89	2008-2018
	2008	89	2009-2018
2014: tertiary notes but still firm and deep, with blue fruit clarity, long and savoury	2014	87	2015-2025

21 Gables Cabernet Sauvignon

RRR

2012: full bodied, with dark mulberry fruit. Scented and smooth and impressive power.	2012	91	2014-2026
2014: mint and herb expression, deep, rich and silky and long. A very good wine.	2014	92	2015-2028
2015: big, bold and rich, with layered spicy fruit, approachable and juicy and with beautiful balance.	2015	93	2018-2030
2016: shy but serious nose, firm and steady with tight cassis and mulberry notes, still to show its class.	2016	92	2019-2029

2017: pre-release is deep purple and shy, then deep and full with linear fruited plum and blackberries, juicy and luscious. Will improve.	2017	90	2021-2032
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2019: perfumed lavender nose and rich colour on a barrel sample, with sweet layered fruit tones and intensity, delicious already.	2019	92	2021-2032
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Signature Shiraz R

	2010	85	2010-2018
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2011: spicy berry nose, juicy fruit, fresh savoury palate, approachable, full mouthfeel, still a bit raw.	2011	84	2011-2018
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2012: classic Shiraz nose and flavours, spicy, juicy blackberry fruit. A touch aggressive.	2012	84	2012-2018
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2013: slightly subdued bitter liquorice with dark spice in a less assertive fashion.	2013	82	2012-2020
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2014: juicy black fruit, easy and plump feel, with burnt liquorice finish.	2014	83	2014-2022
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2016: generous and dark fruited, easy to quaff, not too serious.	2016	78	2016-2025
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2017: profound nose of intense fruit, but less so on palate, still spicy and blackberry fruited.	2017	83	2017-2026
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2018: another full fruited and juicy black berry wine, spice, liquorice, blackcurrant syrup, fun and satisfying.	2018	85	2018-2027
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2019: soft and loaded with syrupy blackberry fruit, supple and smooth if unremarkable.	2019	84	2019-2028
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2020: similar to '18, with more dark spice and berry punch, generous and smooth as ever.	2020	85	2020-2028
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2021: burnt blackcurrant and plum notes, full and syrupy with a youthful, touch aggressive finish, needs time to settle.	2021	84	2022-2028
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Private Col. Shiraz RRR

	2005	95	2008-2020
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	2006	90	2008-2019
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	2007	90	2009-2020
	2008	89	2009-2020

Seaward Shiraz RR

2018: fun, fruity attack, with vanilla ripe nose, dark supple fruits, very dry and yet friendly and satisfying.	2018	89	2019-2028
2020: dry and dusty tannins over lush dark berry fruits, hint of spice, just needs time.	2020	90	2023-2030

Naledi RRR

2008: some rim fade and tertiary game nose, but still nicely fruited and balanced, perfect food wine.	2008	88	2010-2021
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Frans K Smit RRRR

	2006	93	2008-2020
2011: sweet vanilla oak, gentle smooth fruit enveloping and easy. Delicious.	2011	90	2013-2022
2012: stunningly balanced between elegance, fine tannins and persistence and power, presence and seductive richness. Beautiful.	2012	94	2015-2030
2013: deep garnet, fruit forward and bold, cassis and precise berry fruits, fresh, balanced and long, a fine wine.	2013	93	2015-2027
2015: mid purple hue, serious dark fruited and slightly leafy nose before slowly opening exotic plum and red berry flavours, balanced, bright and elegant and so long, a fabulous wine.	2015	95	2018-2032