

## Stellenbosch Hills Wines

R310 021 881 3828 fax; 021 881 3357

GPS; S33°57.38.2"E018°48'1.8"

Website: [www.stellenbosch-hills.co.za](http://www.stellenbosch-hills.co.za)

email: [info@stellenbosch-hills.co.za](mailto:info@stellenbosch-hills.co.za)

Owner(s): 16 Members

Winemaker(s): PJ Slabbert & James Ochse

WO; Stellenbosch



Perhaps not the prettiest building and the tasting room could be brightened, but the wines are clean and honest and occasionally throw up something very special at a reasonable price.

*Vintage Score best drinking*

### Blanc de Blanc Sparkling R

	NV	80	1-5 years
--	----	----	-----------

### Sauvignon Blanc Sparkling R

<b>2017:</b> bright, crisp green apple and citrus, brief and light.	2017	80	2017-2022
<b>2018:</b> green tinged, very gently frothy, lots of zippy green apple and citrus, if brief.	2018	84	2018-2024

### Polkadraai Pinot Noir Rosé Sparkling R

	NV	80	1-6 years
<b>2012:</b> very light pink, strawberry nose, soft and just perlant, quite refreshing.	2012	80	2012-2015
<b>2013:</b> delicate and not overly sweet despite 59g/L. Turkish delight and strawberries and charming cold.	2013	80	2013-2017
<b>2018:</b> pale cherry hue, brief mousse, ripe nose then brief sweet red fruits, good fun.	2018	83	2018-2023
<b>2020:</b> slightly confected, fruity red berry nose, lots of candy floss and red roses, easy-going and enjoyable.	2020	84	2020-2025

## Polkadraai Chenin Blanc/Sauvignon Blanc R

<b>2011:</b> pale colour, bright, zesty nose of Nettles and guava, touch soft and one dimensional.	<b>2011</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2011-2015</b>
<b>2013:</b> very pale, shy nose and light, savoury dry fruit, if a touch short.	<b>2013</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2013-2019</b>
<b>2017:</b> not a combination that favours either varietal, fresh and straightforward.	<b>2017</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2017-2023</b>
<b>2018:</b> pale straw, green fruit notes, clean and fresh and zippy with nice weight.	<b>2018</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2018-2024</b>
<b>2019:</b> good quality quaffer, with mineral notes, gentle fruit and dry feel. Good value.	<b>2019</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2019-2025</b>
<b>2020:</b> bright and crisp with a feint green fruit note, then softer on the palate and finishing brief but pleasant.	<b>2020</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2020-2026</b>
<b>2023:</b> impossible to dislike, fresh and fruity, but not overdone, perfect summer drinking from an odd pairing.	<b>2023</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2023-2027</b>

## Sauvignon Blanc R

	<b>2009</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2009-2011</b>
	<b>2011</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2011-2014</b>
<b>2012:</b> pale hue, green melon and kiwi fruit in a juicy style with brisk acidity and a nice finish.	<b>2012</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2012-2016</b>
<b>2014:</b> pungent nose, big, expressive fruit with bite and honest Sauvignon notes	<b>2014</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2014-2020</b>
<b>2015:</b> nicely weighted, with vibrant lime green fruits, assertive and consistently good quality.	<b>2015</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2015-2022</b>
<b>2017:</b> chunky green fruit citrus attack, intense if short lived, zesty and refreshing.	<b>2017</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2017-2024</b>
<b>2018:</b> very pale and crunchy green fruits, lots of minerality, gooseberry and stone notes.	<b>2018</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2018-2025</b>
<b>2019:</b> overt tropical fruit nose with good acid grip keeping it light and zesty with a hint of sweetness.	<b>2019</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2019-2026</b>

<b>2020:</b> gunflint steeliness nicely mutes varied tropical yellow fruits, almost fume in style, refreshing and impressive.	<b>2020</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2020-2027</b>
<b>2021:</b> steely yet with soft yellow and tropical fruits, easy going but very competent.	<b>2021</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2021-2027</b>

## Chenin Blanc R

	<b>2009</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2009-2015</b>
<b>2011:</b> watery hue, shy and delicate stone fruits with a thin, touch bitter finish.	<b>2011</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2011-2015</b>
<b>2012:</b> feels diluted and pleasant green fruit needs 'beefing up'.	<b>2012</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2012-2018</b>
<b>2013:</b> tangy, apple nose, grippy acidity and light fruit finishing a bit short.	<b>2013</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2013-2020</b>
<b>2015:</b> bitter lemon and lime, with a metallic tone, nicely textured if straightforward.	<b>2015</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2015-2023</b>
<b>2017:</b> green fruit attack, then softer creaminess if rather fleeting and straightforward.	<b>2017</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2017-2025</b>
<b>2018:</b> nicely weighty and with a creamy hint, apple and stone fruits, crisp and zesty.	<b>2018</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2018-2026</b>
<b>2019:</b> easy-going yellow tropical fruit comfort with good textured mouthfeel, pleasant and interesting.	<b>2019</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2019-2028</b>
<b>2020:</b> green tinged with zesty fruity aromas, steely citrus palate, straightforward with just enough weight.	<b>2020</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2020-2027</b>
<b>2021:</b> chunky and hessian-like green apple, youthful and crisp, needs a year to settle, and great value.	<b>2021</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2022-2028</b>
<b>2022:</b> mixed green apple and fresh yellow fruits, too crisp for my taste, but effective.	<b>2022</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2023-2028</b>
<b>2023:</b> stand-out version, richer, deeper yet still brisk and vivid, a real step-up.	<b>2023</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2023-2029</b>

## Chardonnay R

	<b>2008</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2008-2012</b>
--	-------------	-----------	------------------

## 1707 Reserve White RR

<b>2009:</b> rich gold hues, vanilla and peach nose. Full, soft palate with lovely fruit , dripping with flavour.	<b>2009</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2009-2018</b>
<b>2012:</b> sensational value. Rich, very aromatic and with layers of peachy fruit over oak hints.	<b>2012</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2012-2019</b>
<b>2014:</b> oak and tropical fruit punch, peach, creamy pear in a lighter but appealing style.	<b>2014</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2014-2023</b>
<b>2016:</b> light gold, wood and cream hint behind rich yellow fruits, clean and fresh and great value.	<b>2016</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2017-2027</b>
<b>2019:</b> pale depth, shy nose and needing 2 years to show its lemon and orange creamy fruit behind wood notes, will improve.	<b>2019</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2021-2028</b>

## Rosé R

<b>2019:</b> pale copper hue, dry but fruity nose, lightly red berried and chalky, restrained and satisfying.	<b>2019</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2019-2024</b>
<b>2020:</b> lighter styled, zippy and crunchy rather than fruity, nicely textured and dry and quite punchy.	<b>2020</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2020-2026</b>

## Polkadraai Pinotage / Merlot R

<b>2010:</b> overt coffee nose, bitter cherry flavours and red berries, soft and easy.	<b>2010</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2010-2015</b>
<b>2013:</b> lively cherry fruit and juicy. Easy and clean, with a red berry palate.	<b>2013</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2013-2019</b>
<b>2017:</b> dark and fruity and a crowd pleaser, supple and with good balance.	<b>2017</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2017-2026</b>
<b>2018:</b> very fruity nose, dark fruited, forward and juicy fruit palate, lots of dark fruit fun. Great value.	<b>2018</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2018-2027</b>
<b>2019:</b> forward, bold nose and juicy, bright fruit, comfortable and supple and simple, a crowd pleaser.	<b>2019</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2019-2027</b>

**2021:** as the '19, succulent, juicy berry fruit, soft and comforting, not meant to be complex, just enjoy.

---

**2021 86 2021-2028**

## Merlot

R

	<b>2007 81 2007-2014</b>
<b>2008:</b> light depth, shy nose of forest fruits and mint in a rustic, earthy style.	<b>2008 82 2008-2015</b>
<b>2010:</b> solid and chunky, spicy fruit yet not overly heavy. Lovely black cherry bite.	<b>2010 84 2010-2018</b>
<b>2011:</b> soft, juicy nose carried through in a lighter style, simple and satisfying.	<b>2011 82 2011-2019</b>
<b>2012:</b> pale hue, bright cherry shine with crisp acid lift and juicy red berry fruit.	<b>2012 82 2012-2021</b>
<b>2014:</b> Pinotage attack and blue notes – very confusing, firm and linear.	<b>2014 80 2014-2022</b>
<b>2015:</b> rather brutish and brash, dark fruited and weighty, lacking identity.	<b>2015 78 2015-2025</b>
<b>2016:</b> nicely overt and juicy yet firmer mouthfeel and pleasant red berry fruit.	<b>2016 83 2016-2026</b>
<b>2017:</b> full and fleshy, with smooth but gutsy spicy dark fruits, comforting and big for the varietal.	<b>2017 87 2018-2027</b>
<b>2018:</b> dark and spicy, very deep for Merlot, with cocoa powder and plummy black fruit, rich and nicely dry.	<b>2018 88 2019-2028</b>

## Pinotage

R

	<b>2007 81 2007-2012</b>
<b>2008:</b> little depth, light coffee nose, red juicy fruits lacking some acid lift.	<b>2008 80 2008-2014</b>
<b>2010:</b> dark, spicy nose then huge mouthfill of liquorice and plum. All on mid palate, though, with shortish finish.	<b>2010 86 2010-2018</b>
<b>2012:</b> delicious and juicy classic Pinotage bitumen and liquorice. Accessible and with	<b>2012 86 2012-2020</b>

some complexity.

<b>2013:</b> again, lush fruited, dense and smoky, with rich full-bodied expression and nice wood influence.	<b>2013</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2014-2023</b>
<b>2014:</b> nicely fruited and with some punch in flavour but lacking some structure.	<b>2014</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2014-2025</b>
<b>2015:</b> luscious blackcurrant and liquorice, deep and satisfying, a very nice wine.	<b>2015</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2016-2028</b>
<b>2016:</b> ruby blue hue, overt, jammy nose, dusty tannins, soft and juicy mulberry fruit.	<b>2016</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2017-2028</b>
<b>2017:</b> smoky, dusky nose, soft, full and juicy with carbonic simplicity and supple dark fruits, good value.	<b>2017</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2017-2028</b>
<b>2018:</b> whole berry fruit nose, then bright and elegant red berry notes with pitch and blueberries, full and delicious.	<b>2018</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2019-2029</b>

## Cabernet Sauvignon

R

	<b>2007</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2007-2013</b>
<b>2010:</b> mid depth, shy subtle cassis and oak nose, sweet fruit and round mouthfeel.	<b>2010</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2010-2017</b>
<b>2011:</b> deep ruby, blackcurrant and savoury tannin in an honest, drinkable style.	<b>2011</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2011-2020</b>
<b>2012:</b> touch short on complexity and length, but otherwise all you could ask for, very enjoyable.	<b>2012</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2012-2021</b>
<b>2014:</b> competent, deeply fruited and smooth, if lacking much to distinguish it.	<b>2014</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2014-2024</b>
<b>2015:</b> an assertive, dark fruited version, rather rustic and undefined, but still comforting.	<b>2015</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2015-2025</b>
<b>2016:</b> overtly juicy and fruity then revealing some good structure to finish. Clean and pleasant.	<b>2016</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2016-2026</b>
<b>2017:</b> ruby tinted and quite shy, over very dry and grippy tannins, mixed berry fruits and sinewy wood, needs five years.	<b>2017</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2020-2028</b>
<b>2018:</b> nearer 15% than 14% alcohol I suspect, this is a generous, curranty lush version, great value	<b>2018</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2019-2029</b>

and richly fruited.

## Shiraz

R

	2006	85	2007-2013
<b>2007:</b> sweet dark fruit nose, hints of pepper and spice with bramble. Rather one dimensional.	2007	82	2008-2015
<b>2010:</b> expressive black pepper nose then full, big fruit flavours with spicy edge.	2010	85	2010-2018
<b>2011:</b> dark, black fruited nose, with fruit and dry tannins, straightforward.	2011	84	2011-2020
<b>2013:</b> cloaked in wood, with nice fruit and balanced tannins somewhat enveloped.	2013	80	2013-2022
<b>2014:</b> liquid plums and cassis, not peppery, but nicely fruity and comforting.	2014	82	2014-2024
<b>2015:</b> oak texture over dark blackberry fruit, with grip and depth to improve.	2015	84	2015-2026
<b>2016:</b> inky and glossy depth, forward red and bramble fruit, easy and very satisfying.	2016	86	2017-2027
<b>2017:</b> attractive nose then slinky black fruits, supple and generous, not complex but very drinkable.	2017	86	2017-2027
<b>2018:</b> smoky and dusty wood vanilla notes, dusty tannins, fleshy and with peppery generosity, a winter warmer.	2018	87	2019-2028

## 1707 Reserve Red

RR

	2007	88	2008-2019
<b>2008:</b> mid depth, peppery dark fruits of blueberry and damson. Sinewy, mid weight and lacking fruit presence.	2008	85	2009-2017
<b>2010:</b> mid weight, rich fruit if behind grippy tannins with depth, just needs more time.	2010	87	2010-2021
<b>2015:</b> silky and accessible, blue fruit depth, nicely balanced and with some pedigree.	2015	88	2016-2027
<b>2016:</b> intense and unapologetic, with deep firm	2016	92	2018-2029

core fruits, hedgerow red berry, long and balanced  
and very classy. Terrific value.

### Antonie Vlotman Cape Blend

RRRR

**2014:** Old World restraint and balance, great  
food wine, with dusty cedar grip and slowly opening  
classy blackcurrant fruit, a cerebral wine.

**2014 92 2016-2026**

### Muscat de Hambourg

R

Deep salmon, candy floss and roses in a  
delicate, palate cleansing style and very  
drinkable. Vintage version seems richer and  
sweeter.

**NV 84 1-8 years**

**2012:** over sweet Turkish delight, lovely colour  
and red berry grape nose, lacking some  
deftness.

**2010 83 2010-2020**

**2013:** red berry confection, rich and luscious  
if straightforward sweet attack.

**2013 80 2013-2022**

**2016:** light red hue, sweet cherry nose, fruity  
yet firm basis, some heat and very seductive.

**2016 84 2016-2025**

**2018:** cherry hue, lighter than previous, rose petal  
nose, boiled sweets summer pudding palate,  
staying fresh and finishing clean. Great value.

**2018 89 2018-2027**

**2020:** pale again, belying its rich candy floss nose,  
very sweet red summer pudding lushness, viscosity  
and nice balance. Delicious.

**2020 90 2020-2028**