

## Thelema Mountain Vineyards

Helshoogte Pass 021 885 1924  
 fax; 021 885 1800  
 GPS; S33°54'30.0"E018°55'23.4"  
 Website: [www.thelema.co.za](http://www.thelema.co.za)  
 email: [wines@thelema.co.za](mailto:wines@thelema.co.za)  
 Owner(s): McLean & Webb Family Trusts  
 Winemaker(s): G Webb & R Schultz  
 WO; Stellenbosch / Western Cape /Elgin



*Vintage Score best drinking*

### Sutherland Sauvignon Blanc RR

	2008	88	2008-2012
2013: crunchy green bite which softens on finish. Hints of exotic fruits and melon.	2013	87	2013-2019
2017: deep straw, clean and focussed fruit, slightly tropical but with stone minerality backbone.	2017	88	2017-2025
2018: fresh and zesty citrus notes, grassy and overt with a stricking mouthfeel. Stays honest.	2018	89	2019-2026

### Thelema Sauvignon Blanc RR

	2005	90	2005-2015
	2008	86	2008-2013
	2009	83	2009-2012
2011: pale lemon, lime notes and taut acidity with nice weight and a citrusy grapefruit finish.	2011	84	2011-2017
2013: zesty and forward with bold green fruit flavours and quite mouthwatering.	2013	87	2013-2020
2014: chunky and full flavoured, with quality fruit and some complexity.	2014	88	2014-2022
2015: zesty mineral attack followed by a creamy, fuller finish.	2015	85	2015-2023
2017: SO2 burst, then mineral tingle throughout, slightly tropical, balanced and with quality fruit.	2017	87	2017-2027
2018: pale lemon tinge, mineral pebble notes,	2018	87	2018-2027

dry and grippy, with tight citrus and gooseberry flavours.

## Sutherland Viognier/Roussanne

RR

<b>2011:</b> rich, full flavoured, warm and comforting with floral and white peach notes. Delicious.	<b>2011</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2011-2020</b>
<b>2015:</b> light bodied, rather delicate and restrained, floral, peach and pear notes, pleasant if unchallenging.	<b>2015</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2015-2024</b>
<b>2016:</b> straw depth, bright lemon peel and floral attack, dry and refreshing without overt peachy notes.	<b>2016</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2017-2026</b>

## Riesling

RR

	<b>2008</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2008-2017</b>
	<b>2009</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2010-2019</b>
<b>2010:</b> off dry style, light gold with hints of terpene. Nice bite of spicy limes.	<b>2010</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2011-2020</b>
<b>2011:</b> pristine fruit, grippy savoury flavours and honest varietal pleasure.	<b>2011</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2012-2022</b>
<b>2015:</b> classic terpene aromas then savoury lime, herb and citrus with good weight and tactile feel, will improve.	<b>2015</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2017-2028</b>
<b>2016:</b> overt and deliciously oily, with full flavoured layers, peach and pear and stone fruits, long and sumptuous, a classic.	<b>2016</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2019-2030</b>
<b>2017:</b> forward and only slightly sweet, full mouthfeel and full of delicious stony yellow fruits, lime and hint of spice, a real bargain.	<b>2017</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2020-2030</b>

## Muscat de Frontignan

RR

<b>2017:</b> heady perfume of grape and fig, then chewily dry mouthfeel, delicious if fleeting.	<b>2017</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2017-2024</b>
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**2019:** nicely balanced and refreshing, with grape and floral notes, dry, medium bodied and a good food match.

**2019 86 2019-2025**

## **Sutherland Chardonnay**

RR

	<b>2007 90 2008-2015</b>
<b>2017:</b> pale hue, wood hint, lime and tropical fruit, forward and juicy and showing mineral finish.	<b>2017 87 2017-2027</b>
<b>2018:</b> vanilla overt nose, peach and pear-drop, clean and textured and very fresh.	<b>2018 88 2019-2028</b>

## **Thelema Chardonnay**

RR

	<b>2007 89 2008-2016</b>
<b>2015:</b> light gold hue, full and forward but finishes precise and clean, lots of peach citrus.	<b>2015 86 2015-2024</b>
<b>2016:</b> sulphur nose then lees creaminess and oak then green and yellow vibrant fruit, finishing with focus and craftsmanship.	<b>2016 91 2018-2027</b>
<b>2017:</b> lime and wood aromas, a full mouthfeel, nicely balanced, tangy, lots of yellow fruits and good persistence. A quality wine.	<b>2017 92 2018-2028</b>

## **Ed's Reserve Chardonnay**

RR

	<b>2007 88 2007-2015</b>
<b>2010:</b> light yellow, grapey muscat nose from special clone, soft, yeasty and fragrant. Touch of sherbet.	<b>2010 86 2010-2018</b>
<b>2015:</b> overt fruity nose, fresh and lively peach and lemon drops.	<b>2015 87 2015-2025</b>
<b>2016:</b> straw hue, oaky nose, vanilla and yellow fruits, closed and needing time to reveal depth and complexity.	<b>2016 87 2019-2027</b>

## **Riesling Late Harvest**

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	2008	90	2008-2018
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## Semillon Late Harvest

RR

<b>2014:</b> waxy nose, lots of lemon citrus, white blossom and peach with nutty finish, unctuous and delicious.	2014	90	2014-2026
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## Rosé

RR

<b>2013:</b> strawberry Grenache and dry berry fruit, rather light on palate.	2013	84	2013-2019
<b>2020:</b> sweet nose full of candy floss and strawberries, pleasantly dry palate with crisp raspberry notes, a touch confectioned.	2020	86	2020-2026

## Sutherland Pinot Noir

RR

<b>2012:</b> rose petal nose, smooth entry, textured dry berry fruit, shortish finish.	2012	86	2012-2020
<b>2014:</b> pale hue, glossy with bright strawberry notes, not an earthy style, clean and silky cherry.	2014	86	2014-2024
<b>2016:</b> dark cherry hue, fresh and fruity in a lightish style with nice grip and punchy flavours at finish.	2016	87	2018-2026
<b>2017:</b> pale depth, leaner red berry fruits nose then opening to fresher, smooth winter compote, classy and endearing.	2017	89	2018-2028

## Mountain Red

RR

	2006	87	2006-2013
<b>2009:</b> overt sweet fruit nose, then black pepper and plum in a tangy enjoyable gulp.	2009	84	2009-2017
<b>2014:</b> bright and juicy, quite forward, with	2014	82	2014-2024

easy-going smooth mouthfeel.			
<b>2015:</b> with 18 months in oak, the balance is fine, the wood merely supportive, the fruit spicy, brooding yet accessible. Very good.	<b>2015</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2016-2027</b>
<b>2018:</b> lots of roasted meat and charcoal on a full and forward, unpretentious, wine, effective if unremarkable.	<b>2018</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2019-2028</b>

## Thelema Merlot

RR

	<b>2007</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2008-2015</b>
<b>2009:</b> dark plum, bright juicy fruit of simple red berries and a mouthfilling softish style.	<b>2009</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2009-2017</b>
<b>2010:</b> more overt and packed with vibrant cherry-plum fruit. Long and layered.	<b>2010</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2011-2022</b>
<b>2014:</b> still youthfull with soft, plump cherry notes and dusty fruit.	<b>2014</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2014-2024</b>
<b>2015:</b> ripe and juicy fruit, lots of rich forest dark fruits, black cherry and herbs, layered and classy.	<b>2015</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2016-2027</b>
<b>2016:</b> very deep for varietal, with dark fruit nose, cherry and bitter raspberry with sinewy wood texture in a forward style.	<b>2016</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2018-2028</b>
<b>2017:</b> dark fruited rather than cherried. With mocha dusty tannins, full mouthfeel and mixed winter fruit comfort.	<b>2017</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2019-2027</b>

## Thelema Reserve Merlot

RRR

<b>2009:</b> plush, enticing nose then dense chewy ripe fruit and cedar. Full bodied and with concentration.	<b>2009</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2011-2019</b>
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## Thelema Cabernet Sauvignon

RRR

	<b>2006</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2008-2018</b>
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<b>2008:</b> dusty cassis and coffee notes with subtle cherry tones in a stylish, confident manner.	<b>2008</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2009-2020</b>
<b>2009:</b> big and minty with oak grip but lacking its usual clarity.	<b>2009</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2009-2020</b>
<b>2010:</b> shy yet, blue fruit nose then grippy rich fruit and will open up.	<b>2010</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2011-2022</b>
<b>2013:</b> ripe, almost sweet fruit in a forward, easy style, finishing with berry notes.	<b>2013</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2012-2023</b>
<b>2014:</b> mid depth and weight, firm mid palate and fresh fruited, good structure.	<b>2014</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2014-2025</b>
<b>2016:</b> deeply toned, full fruited and finely tannin strewn, opening to lush and smooth enjoyment.	<b>2016</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2018-2028</b>
<b>2017:</b> pre-bottling has wild berry fruits, bright freshness, not too much oak and full palate.	<b>2017</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2020-2030</b>
<b>2019:</b> bold mint and eucalyptus nose on a barrel sample, friendly cassis and red berry notes, nice structure.	<b>2019</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2021-2030</b>

## The Abbey RRR

<b>2018:</b> mid ruby gloss, bold mixed currant aromas, hidden oak, silky mulberry, blueberries and liquorice, delightful. Still improving.	<b>2018</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2019-2029</b>
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## Sutherland Syrah RR

<b>2014:</b> very deep, full bodied, soft and ripe fruit, spice and blackberries, not a peppery style.	<b>2014</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2015-2027</b>
<b>2015:</b> mauve-red depth, enticing pretty nose, sweet dark fruited, not too spicy or peppery and with good grip.	<b>2015</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2017-2028</b>

## Thelema Shiraz RR

	<b>2007 86 2008-2018</b>
<b>2008:</b> very dense, vanilla and spice with toasty blackberries and leather. Touch astringent.	<b>2008 86 2009-2018</b>
<b>2014:</b> deep ruby, shy nose and lightish body, quite savoury with a spice hint.	<b>2014 84 2014-2025</b>
<b>2015:</b> plum hues with shy nose then juicy ripe fruit and careful oak, more elegant than Sutherland style.	<b>2015 90 2018-2028</b>
<b>2016:</b> smoky blue fruit nose, cedar and blackcurrant, silky rich with lace tannins and plums, not so peppery style.	<b>2016 92 2018-2029</b>

## The Mint

RRR

<b>2009:</b> true to name, eucalyptus and mint nose then sweet chocolate and cassis in a mouth watering, lush and sophisticated style.	<b>2009 93 2011-2019</b>
<b>2012:</b> subtle and silky, with nuanced fruit and fine tannins, nicely restrained.	<b>2012 91 2014-2024</b>
<b>2014:</b> overt nose of fynbos and wild herbs, lighter than before, with juicy berry fruit, stylish if less complex. The last vintage for a while.	<b>2014 89 2015-2026</b>

## Rabelais

RRRR

<b>2008:</b> opaque, brooding nose of cedar and chary then generous black fruits, powerful yet restrained.	<b>2008 93 2010-2019</b>
<b>2011:</b> dark fruited, brooding and with quality ripe fruit, integrated oak and still to reveal.	<b>2011 92 2013-2025</b>
<b>2013:</b> opaque heart with edge fade, red berry nose over silky and long spicy fruit.	<b>2013 90 2014-2026</b>
<b>2014:</b> classically reserved, nicely balanced serious wine, with hedgerow briary fruit, mint hint and rich and ripe luxury.	<b>2014 93 2016-2027</b>
<b>2015:</b> inky depth, deep and serious nose, soft	<b>2015 93 2018-2028</b>

and expressive lushness on palate, deceptively elegant and powerful, long and compelling.

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**Van de Hel Muscat** 375m RR

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<b>2008:</b> bright apricot and grape aromas, background acidity and refreshing perfumed fruit, not at all cloying.	<b>2008</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2008-2016</b>
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<b>2010:</b> bright and fresh despite its sweetness, lots of orange and grape enjoyment.	<b>2010</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2010-2020</b>
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<b>2015:</b> nicely balanced with yellow fruit and hay notes, richness yet again that clean non-syrupy edge and fine, almost graceful sweetness.	<b>2015</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2017-2026</b>
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**Semillon Late Harvest** 375m RR

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<b>2014:</b> pale gold and holding its 194g of RS with clean lines, freshness and focus. Orange peel and nuts, perfect dessert wine.	<b>2014</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2014-2028</b>
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<b>2015:</b> pale straw with classic wet straw notes and lemon citrus, mealy and thoughtful and cleanly balanced.	<b>2015</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2016-2028</b>
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