

Villiera Wines

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Owner(s): IWAYINI / GCF

Winemaker(s): Alexander Monroe Grier

WO; Stellenbosch / Western Cape

It isn't all sparkling wines at Villiera, but they are the main attraction, with a solid commercial brand and some top end offerings, set among a busy winery with casual dining and a family atmosphere.



Vintage Score best drinking

Starlight Brut MCC RR

Hints of lees aging, firm yet with softness at the finish, and losing alcohol hasn't hurt at all, maybe.

NV 81 1-6 years

Vintage Brut Natural MCC RR

	NV 80 1-6 years
2013: lees aging gives a rich yeasty base, with almond notes and good weight.	2013 88 2013-2023
2014: deeply hued, gentle bread notes then big fruit profile, apples and citrus delight, nicely weighted.	2014 88 2014-2025
2015: rich straw depth, yeasty dough nose, bready palate with restrained stone fruit, lively and effective.	2015 87 2015-2026
2016: pale gold, persistent mousse, biscuit nose with dough and yeasty notes, dry yellow fruit and not too crisp.	2016 88 2016-2027

Traditional Brut MCC RR

Very pale, short mousse, then gentle but bright fresh fruit, lemony and citrus.	NV	83	1-6 years
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Traditional Brut Rosé MCC RR

Hint of colour, fine, short mousse, cherry, raspberry notes, a touch brittle and light.	NV	83	1-6 years
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Monro Brut MCC RRR

2007: light gold, fine mousse and yeasty lees nose. Rich, full palate with lush mouthfeel yet playful and delicate flavours.	2007	90	2007-2019
2008: delicate hue and lightly brioche nose. Less bold than '07, with clean fruit lingering and classic lees overtones.	2008	89	2008-2018
2011: light nose, fine mousse, clean and bright fruit with depth and some class.	2011	88	2012-2023
2012: weightier yeasty nose than '11, with long and fine mousse, layered palate of leesy stone fruit, very nice and quite classy.	2012	92	2015-2028
2014: lime tinged hue, oxidative yeasty nose, very clean lemon and yellow fruit precision, persistent and classy.	2014	90	2014-2028

Meteor MCC RRR

2008: tasted at 7 years and so rich, bready and lingering, quite delicious.	2008	92	2008-2020
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Sauvignon Blanc R

	2008	85	2008-2017
	2009	82	2009-2017
2011: pale hue, overt nose of gooseberry and unripe green fruits. Softened acidity	2011	83	2011-2019

and pleasant mouthfeel.			
2015: deliciously delicate and elegant but with layers of defined fruit.	2015	84	2015-2022
2016: nicely poised with a hint of minerality over fine white and citrus fruit.	2016	85	2016-2024
2017: pale yet bright and punchy crisp green fruits, apple and zesty melange.	2017	86	2017-2025
2018: lighter styled with steely minerality, orange peel and citrus notes, punchy if brief.	2018	86	2018-2026
2021: taut and full of lean green fruit, crunchy acidity and a mineral dryness, effective if demanding.	2021	86	2021-2026

Jasmine

R

2014: clean and heavily scented, delightful and fun, with expressive fruit.	2014	85	2014-2019
2018: sweetly perfumed but not overly 'off-dry', white flower blossoms and soft summer notes, very attractive.	2018	88	2018-2026
2020: palely tinted with full grapey nose, lightly off-dry, not sticky and with clean fresh fruity attractiveness.	2020	87	2020-2027
2021: shiny bright and with perfumed, heavy candy nose, just enough sweetness and floral red berries.	2021	87	2021-2027
2022: sweetly perfumed, quite heady, and so pretty, very friendly and great with difficult desserts.	2022	87	2022-2028

Bush Vine Sauvignon Blanc

RR

2010: pale lime, grippy acidity then full tangy fruit with weight and poise. Lovely.	2010	87	2010-2018
2017: mid straw, creamy citrus bite from wood, but fruit manages to shine.	2017	88	2017-2023
2019: green tinged with a tropical fruit palate and creamy feel, lots of ripe pear and good weight, the best yet.	2019	90	2020-2027

Riesling

R

2009: terpenes and cloves – nicer than it sounds, off dry, chewy fruit, supportive acidity, honest and enjoyable.	2009	85	2010-2019
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Chenin Blanc

R

2011: lots of malic notes and herbs then bright, clean fruit. Easy drinking.	2011	83	2011-2018
2012: light and crispy style, refreshing and with delicate apple/pear nuances.	2012	84	2012-2019
2013: chunky crisp green fruit, lots of savoury bite and some weight. Very enjoyable.	2013	85	2013-2022
2014: wet pebbles, unripe orange and crisp lemon, pungent and compelling, very nice.	2014	88	2014-2024
2015: honest Chenin green apple brightness, less defined than previous, and less persistent.	2015	83	2015-2025
2017: shy nose, pale depth, summer fruits and just tropical, fresh but brief.	2017	85	2017-2025
2018: lip-smackingly refreshing, grapefruit and white pear, with texture and green herb note, crunchy fruit but not complicated.	2018	86	2018-2027
2019: less bracing than the '18, with a subdued nose then crisp yellow and green fruit palate, ripe and generous.	2019	88	2020-2028
2021: mid-way between green citrus and soft, lemon, lime and nectarine, pleasant enough.	2021	87	2021-2028
2022: familiar herbaceous green fruit with a taut full mouthfeel, very interesting and good.	2022	89	2022-2029

Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc

RR

2009: serious, rich nose, big mouthfeel, tangy fruit with bite and character; quite	2009	89	2010-2019
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delicious and will age,			
2013: overt oak masks shy fruit with brittle acidity showing a need to develop, needs 2-3 more years.	2013	85	2013-2020
2017: pale despite wood, full and viscous palate, orange and passion fruit with good length.	2017	86	2017-2026
2018: glossy straw, creamy nose and rich peach and stone pit flavours, perfumed, bold and persistent.	2018	90	2019-2028
2019: gently tinted with a dry honeysuckle nose and more viscous palate of peach and stone fruits, quite impressive. Will improve score.	2019	90	2020-2029
2021: lots of extract, wood and stone fruits, needs serious time to show. Very intense.	2021	90	2023-2030

Down to Earth White R

	2009	80	2009-2014
2011: shy, lemon and gooseberry nose, clean, supple and quaffable.	2011	83	2011-2016
2018: very pale, tight lemon and soft yellow tropical fruits with creamy feel, straightforward.	2018	86	2018-2026
2019: SO2 nose then follows savoury citrus notes, bold ripe fruits, gently tropical and soft if brief.	2019	87	2019-2027
2020: arresting texture, sappy herbs and a fuller mid, unusual and better for it, very good.	2020	89	2020-2028
2021: very pretty white pear and jasmine aromas with a yellow fruit clean palate, delightful, just needs more weight.	2021	87	2021-2028

Gewurztraminer R

2010: hugely perfumed, classic lychee notes, off dry, expressive but lacking weight.	2010	84	2010-2017
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Stand Alone Gamay

RRR

2018: bright and vibrant red berry, light weight and with firm grip and touch of leanness, clean, linear if brief.	2018	87	2018-2026
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Down to Earth Red

R

	2005	82	2005-2012
2011: deeply coloured, overt nose of plum and cherry pits, sweet black fruits, completely overdelivering at this price.	2011	84	2011-2018
2012: classic Touriga dry tannic grip but less deep and lush than expected. Enjoyable but less marked.	2012	83	2012-2018
2013: opaque, big juicy nose, all bramble and blackberry and rich and slinky on the palate.	2013	86	2013-2023
2016: mid depth, shy nose then easy red berry fruits, dark and generous with pleasant grippy tannin finish.	2016	85	2016-2026
2017: glossy ruby, vanilla soft nose, dark fruited, dusty spice and ripe berry enjoyment. Straightforward.	2017	87	2017-2027
2018: earthy, dry dusty nose and smoky chocolate hints, some spice and red berries with grainy wood.	2018	87	2018-2027
2020: black earth indeed, with full mouthfeel and dark fruit bite, some spice and a ripe, smooth fruited finish.	2020	86	2020-2028
2021: less chunky than the '20, with deep winter berries, nicely supple and definitely satisfying.	2021	86	2021-2029

Merlot

R

	2006	85	2007-2017
2010: red berry nose, sweet oak tannins then savoury flavours and ripe fruit. Delicious	2010	88	2011-2019

and great value.

2013: dry and grippy, with lean, muscular fruit and a heavy, rather short finish.	2013	84	2013-2023
2014: dark, almost bitter spicy, nice grip, pleasant if unremarkable.	2014	80	2014-2023
	2015	82	2015-2023
2016: cherry hue, demure nose, silky red fruits with forest notes, dry and satisfying.	2016	87	2016-2026
2017: pale depth, soft, warm nose, juicy forward fruit, gentle structure and finely balanced with clean rich flavours. Very good.	2017	91	2018-2028
2019: round bodied and full fruited, mixed berries, easy-going and drinkable in youth, perfectly acceptable if unremarkable.	2019	89	2020-2028

The Monro Merlot

RRR

2005: opaque with ageing edges, woody nose with tertiary notes of raspberry and cigar box then lean, stewed fruit still layered and long. Classic and delightful.	2005	92	2008-2019
2007: at ten years holding good colour and clean, smooth fruit, silky tannins hint of leather and cedar. Delicious.	2007	91	2008-2022
2017: dry, leafy and sappy red berry flavours, wood tannins, finely edged and arresting, balanced and assertive.	2017	92	2019-2028
2018: opaque nearly, with forward nose, chalky tannins, robust but smooth cherry and darker fruit medley, layered and still improving.	2018	92	2020-2029
2020: big and forward, quite firm, with smoky nose and dark fruit fulness, a serious Merlot.	2020	91	2021-2029

Pinotage

R

2008: very deep, mocha, plum, leather and dark chocolate nose over sweet liquorice	2008	87	2009-2019
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fruit. Shouts Pinotage; excellent example.		
2012: silky and approachable, with dark winter berries and lozenge quality fruit.	2012	85 2012-2022
2017: mid depth with blue tinge, glossy and attractive, soft blue fruit palate with smoky plum flavours.	2017	88 2017-2027
2018: very deep this year, with bold and fruity mulberries and plums and bluecurrants. Easy-going and juicy throughout.	2018	87 2018-2028

Cabernet Sauvignon RR

	2007	85 2007-2014
2009: deep hue, cassis lozenge sweetness with dry tannic edge, chewy, rustic and with personality, great value.	2009	87 2010-2018
2012: more denim than silk, tough and rustic at present, showing tannin and spice, needs time.	2012	84 2012-2024
2013: softer and more approachable than previous, juicy, and agreeable if unremarkable.	2013	78 2013-2022
2015: deep ruby, spicy dark fruit with earthy vibrancy, dry and dusty.	2015	84 2015-2025
2016: ruby hue, shy nose, lozenge-like supple fruit, juicy, forward, smoky and easy, if feeling a touch overripe.	2016	86 2016-2026

Shiraz R

2015: ruby depth, mulberry ripeness and blackberries, long and spicy.	2015	86 2016-2027
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The Clan RRRR

2015: mid weight, very dry and grippy with tactile texture, serious layers and a rustic, leaner	2015	92 2018-2028
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expressive tautness.

Cape Ruby (was Fired Earth) LBV 500ml RR

2004: ageing brick rim but vibrant nose of
raisins and prunes. Sweet, gutsy and
warm, luscious and long, perfect for winter.

2004 92 2004-2018

2012: smoky and rustic, with raspy oak
and textured plum warmth, still vibrant.

2012 87 2012-2025

Inspiration NLH 375ml RR

2010: deep gold, freshly opened honey pot
And overripe peach and tangy orange.
Bright acidity, rich but touch lacking in depth.

2010 89 2010-2019



VILLIERA
MERLOT
2009
MADE, MATURED AND BOTTLED BY THE GRILL FAMILY
STELLENBOCH SOUTH AFRICA