

## Vredenheim Wines

R310 021 881 3637 fax; 021 881 3296

GPS; S33°57'38.2"E018°48'29.4"

Website: [www.vredenheim.co.za](http://www.vredenheim.co.za)

email: [wine@vredenheim.co.za](mailto:wine@vredenheim.co.za)

Owner(s): Bezuidenhout Family

Winemaker(s): Kowie du Toit

WO; Stellenbosch

Set among a melange of small businesses and beautiful gardens, this somewhat dishevelled wine producer is improving wine quality and offers a cosy tasting room and is focussing on few labels.



*Vintage Score best drinking*

### Vredenvonkel Sparkling

R

Simple and fun, Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon (!) strawberry quaffer, frothy and juicy.

**NV 80 1-5 years**

### Sauvignon Blanc

R

**2014:** merest hint of green, full nose of oily citrus and weighty body with just enough acidity.

**2014 80 2014-2019**

**2017:** terrific pyrazine punch, all gooseberry brightness and bite, nice weight and texture.

**2017 85 2017-2024**

**2019:** very pale with bright if brief tropical fruit in an easy-going refreshing style.

**2019 85 2019-2025**

**2020:** soft and welcoming tropical fruit nose, dry and steely body, finishing light and easy, quite pleasant.

**2020 86 2020-2026**

### Chenin Blanc

R

**2019:** overt, fruity nose with nice texture and mouthfeel, quite bold and savoury with mixed

**2019 86 2019-2027**

citrus and exotic fruits.		
<b>2020:</b> pale hue, soft green apple notes, not overtly fruity style, very dry and brief, straightforward and acceptable.	<b>2020</b>	<b>86</b> <b>2020-2027</b>

## M'Lord Chardonnay RR

<b>2012:</b> very pale with oak and white peach, lightish and feels dilute.	<b>2012</b>	<b>80</b> <b>2012-2018</b>
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## Rosé R

<b>2018:</b> blended Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet in a fun, off dry easy and lightish wine, brief but pleasant and beautifully coloured.	<b>2018</b>	<b>81</b> <b>2018-2024</b>
<b>2019:</b> quite pale with shy nose hinting at mixed summer fruits, then dry, ripe red berry grip, finishing fruity.	<b>2019</b>	<b>83</b> <b>2019-2025</b>

## Merlot R

<b>2009:</b> fruity nose, juicy, fresh palate oak influence a touch austere with lean body weight. Straightforward.	<b>2009</b>	<b>75</b> <b>2009-2015</b>
<b>2011:</b> offers more than quaffing quality, with elegance, acid support and fruit persistence.	<b>2011</b>	<b>84</b> <b>2011-2022</b>
<b>2014:</b> balanced dusty fruit, red berried and rustic but very enjoyable.	<b>2014</b>	<b>86</b> <b>2014-2024</b>
<b>2015:</b> very fruity and deeply hued, with smooth juicy ripe berry fruit, a very nice wine.	<b>2015</b>	<b>87</b> <b>2016-2025</b>
<b>2018:</b> lots of berry and cherry fruit with fynbos, staying rustic and dark, with nice briary grip, quite firm for variety.	<b>2018</b>	<b>88</b> <b>2018-2028</b>
<b>2019:</b> ruby black shine with a very fruity nose, soft and smooth mouthfeel, smoky and grippy mixed fruit flavours.	<b>2019</b>	<b>87</b> <b>2019-2028</b>

## Pinotage

R

<b>2008:</b> mustiness, dried fruit, suggestion of fault.	<b>2008 72 2008-2011</b>
<b>2013:</b> new oak, mid weight with mulberry and ripe fruit, dry and slow opener.	<b>2013 84 2013-2020</b>
<b>2017:</b> overt and fruity with smooth and accessible tannins and lots of blue berries.	<b>2017 84 2017-2027</b>
<b>2018:</b> fleshy ripe nose then lightish and dry earthy blue and black fruits, nicely juicy and tactile.	<b>2018 88 2019-2028</b>

## Cabernet Sauvignon

RR

<b>2008:</b> moderate nose of blue berries and mint, dry, lean palate with tannic grip. Medium bodied, ready for drinking.	<b>2008 80 2008-2016</b>
<b>2013:</b> soft, blue fruited all texture and tannins, sour plums and slightly bitter.	<b>2013 84 2013-2020</b>
<b>2015:</b> inky depth, bright and clean cassis and herb notes, still tight but with some richness.	<b>2015 88 2016-2026</b>
<b>2016:</b> quite light depth, wooded berry nose, bright and supple with dark plum fruit, easy and accessible.	<b>2016 86 2016-2027</b>
<b>2017:</b> deeply toned and very juicy but with ample interest and texture, wood, vanilla and blackcurrants, a step up.	<b>2017 90 2019-2029</b>

## Shiraz

R

<b>2008:</b> deep colour, juicy nose with palate of spice and pepper, touch austere and one dimensional.	<b>2008 76 2008-2012</b>
<b>2011:</b> jammy, black fruited, seems whole bunch pressed. Juicy with black pepper,	<b>2011 84 2011-2020</b>

mocha finish.

<b>2014:</b> soft and juicy, not a peppery style but with spice bite and soft mulberry roundness.	<b>2014</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2015-2025</b>
<b>2017:</b> more structured and serious, with white pepper and spicy black fruit, juicy and definitely New World style on the finish.	<b>2017</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2018-2027</b>

## Reserve

R

<b>2008:</b> lively, fruity nose with pepper and dark berries on the palate. Oak tannins forward and rather fleshy feel with short finish. Drink young.	<b>2008</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2008-2015</b>
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## Gracious Lady

RR

<b>2013:</b> toasted oak, coffee and vanilla, dry plums and spice, too simple and short finish.	<b>2013</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2013-2023</b>
<b>2015:</b> inky depth, lots of bramble fruits and herb savoury tang, balanced and pristine.	<b>2015</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2016-2026</b>
<b>2016:</b> spicy dark fruited nose, clean and very supple restrained palate, classy and balanced and very good.	<b>2016</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2018-2028</b>