

## Zonnebloem

Die Bergkelder

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WO; Stellenbosch / Coastal / Western Cape



Another brand available at the Bergkelder, where older vintages can be purchased at very reasonable prices and a visit to the cellar in the mountain and the museum after your tasting make it a great day out.

*Vintage Score best drinking*

### Blanc de Blanc

R

<b>2011:</b> very pale with obvious youthful spritz, zesty citrus nose, overly tight acid and green apple flavours. Quite light.	<b>2011</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2011-2016</b>
<b>2014:</b> Sauvignon green fruit zest with indistinctive Chenin blurring the edges.	<b>2014</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2014-2019</b>
<b>2015:</b> easy going, citrus with subdued grip, the sum not being greater than the parts.	<b>2015</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2015-2021</b>
<b>2016:</b> fresh and sassy, with subtle fruit hints and good balance. Very pleasant.	<b>2016</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2016-2022</b>
<b>2018:</b> very pale indeed, very crisp, very citrusy, very dry, tight and brief, just mid weighted and simple.	<b>2018</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2018-2024</b>
<b>2019:</b> under-ripe pineapple, melon and lemongrass with a tangy, not overly zesty style, nice texture, but falls away quickly.	<b>2019</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2019-2026</b>
<b>2020:</b> fresh and clean as ever, with a lime citrus kick, florality and a fuller guava and melon palate, nice and easy.	<b>2020</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2020-2027</b>
<b>2021:</b> fleshy yellow fruit with a mineral dry white pear note, floral as ever and as friendly.	<b>2021</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2021-2028</b>

### Sauvignon Blanc

R

<b>2011:</b> hint of green, lemon/lime nose, rather unfocussed citrus tang on the palate. Initial fresh bite but recedes quickly.	<b>2011</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2011-2017</b>
<b>2013:</b> nicely balanced between grippy entry and creamy finish and zippy green fruit and tropical fruit and stone fruit notes.	<b>2013</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2013-2019</b>
<b>2014:</b> unripe Granny Smith apples with a tempering of its acidity. Lacking some character.	<b>2014</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2014-2019</b>
<b>2015:</b> gorgeous crunchy green apple, pristine fruit, clean, vibrant and honest. Quite delicious.	<b>2015</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2015-2022</b>
<b>2016:</b> lighter, held-back version, lacking the drive of the 2015, clean, fresh but unmemorable.	<b>2016</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2016-2024</b>
<b>2017:</b> smells rich and begins full and tropical but narrows to clean citrus in the mouth. A good version.	<b>2017</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2017-2025</b>
<b>2018:</b> freshly squeezed lemon juice, a hint of sherbet lime and some chalky acidity, but rather abrupt.	<b>2018</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2018-2026</b>
<b>2019:</b> bursting with classic notes, gooseberry and passion fruit perfume, stone fruit palate, nice weight, clean and honest, a great edition.	<b>2019</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2019-2028</b>
<b>2020:</b> gentle tropical fruit and lime burst, poured over river pebbles, honest, enjoyable and understated.	<b>2020</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2020-2028</b>
<b>2021:</b> faintly coloured with very dry and crisp steely green fruit, some tropical notes on the finish which is sadly dilute.	<b>2021</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2021-2027</b>
<b>2022:</b> bursting with zesty green fruit, especially lime, straightforward but very satisfying.	<b>2022</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2022-2028</b>

## Chardonnay

R

<b>2011:</b> pale lime with C0° spritz running throughout. Pleasant nose of oak and tropical fruit, light and touch thin on the palate, but enjoyable.	<b>2011</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2011-2017</b>
<b>2012:</b> pleasant and clean if not memorable.	<b>2012</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2012-2017</b>

Simple style, hints of yellow fruit.

<b>2013:</b> nicely balanced between juicy lemony fruit, crisp fresh palate and delicate structure.	<b>2013</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2013-2018</b>
<b>2014:</b> easy going, lemon and lime quaffer, gentle acidity, cool stone fruit and likeable.	<b>2014</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2014-2020</b>
<b>2015:</b> creamy, mid-weight and with delicate tropical flavours, finishing short, but pleasant.	<b>2015</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2015-2024</b>
<b>2016:</b> hints of light tropical fruit with some steeliness, perhaps lacking some weight.	<b>2016</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2016-2025</b>
<b>2017:</b> delicate yellow fruits, clean and with nice zest, but lighter than previous and too brief.	<b>2017</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2017-2026</b>
<b>2018:</b> gently understated stone fruit, white pear, spring flowers and a flinty backbone. Pleasant if unprepossessing.	<b>2018</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2018-2027</b>
<b>2019:</b> palest lemon hue, feint citrus and pear nose then very taut mouthfeel, brisk grip, not much oak or creamy feel.	<b>2019</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2019-2027</b>
<b>2020:</b> somewhat muted with sinewy oak, gentle fruit and mineral notes with a creamy, quite fresh, finish.	<b>2020</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2020-2028</b>
<b>2021:</b> brief and dry but with plush stone fruits, wet pebble minerality and good value enjoyment.	<b>2021</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2021-2028</b>

## Noir de Noir

R

<b>2017:</b> difficult to spot the Cinsault/Petit Verdot in this bitumen and cherry dominated Pinotage blend. Rustic, full-fruited and juicy, a crowd pleaser.	<b>2017</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2017-2025</b>
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## Merlot

R

<b>2010:</b> enjoyable at first, lots of smooth briary dark fruit, but lacking complexity	<b>2010</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2010-2017</b>
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and rather brief.			
<b>2011:</b> bitter fruited, hints of game but otherwise undistinguished.	2011	82	2011-2020
<b>2012:</b> consistent, rugged yet accessible and full fruited, if lacking character.	2012	82	2012-2020
<b>2013:</b> darkly fruited and charry, consistent if showing a dry bite at the finish.	2013	81	2013-2020
<b>2014:</b> feral, hedgerow wild berry and a mix of smoke and rubber, strangely pungent.	2014	78	2014-2022
<b>2016:</b> big and robust, with dark, spicy hedgerow fruit, rather imprecise and fleeting.	2016	79	2017-2024
<b>2017:</b> sturdy and hearty, with ripe cherry fruit, red berry and hint of wood vanilla, easy to like and a step up.	2017	85	2017-2026
<b>2018:</b> very smooth feel but chunky fruited, dark cherry and winter berry, pleasant but unremarkable.	2018	82	2019-2027
<b>2019:</b> sleek and rounded though with fresh acidity to keep it bright, lots of raspberry and cherry fruit.	2019	85	2019-2027
<b>2020:</b> friendly and supple as ever, with deep lush berry flavours and instant likeability. Definite wood influence.	2020	86	2021-2028

## Pinotage

R

<b>2010:</b> dense hue and of mid weight. Juicy mocha liquorice palate, supple and fruity. Straightforward and enjoyable.	2010	86	2010-2018
<b>2011:</b> juicy red berry fruited in a lighter style with hints of spice and bitter chocolate.	2011	85	2011-2020
<b>2012:</b> bone dry with burnt cherry notes. Dark earthy tones but a touch astringent.	2012	82	2012-2020
<b>2013:</b> accessible and supple, consistent if a bit anonymous, with hints of blue fruit.	2013	82	2013-2021
<b>2014:</b> rich and full bodied, feeling slightly 'hot', but consistently pleasing.	2014	81	2014-2022
<b>2015:</b> bitumen and overripe plums, quite	2015	83	2015-2024

viscous and heady, if straightforward.

<b>2016:</b> dark berries, mid weight, competent and reliable, if unremarkable.	<b>2016</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2016-2025</b>
<b>2017:</b> classic pungent, slightly acetate notes on a fruity plum and blackcurrant pleaser. Supple, full and hearty and quite appealing.	<b>2017</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2017-2026</b>
<b>2018:</b> smoky and rustic, with briary hedgerow winter dark fruits, rather uncouth and unremarkable if satisfying.	<b>2018</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2018-2026</b>
<b>2019:</b> initially mixed berry fruits with a smooth entry, then more rustic and edgy on the mid, finishing big and effective.	<b>2019</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2020-2027</b>
<b>2020:</b> noticeable oak tang on a winter berry compote, less blue fruited but nicely full and comforting.	<b>2020</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2021-2028</b>

## Cabernet Sauvignon

R

	<b>2005</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2006-2017</b>
	<b>2009</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2010-2019</b>
<b>2012:</b> Bordeaux like sweet oaking over gentle blackcurrant flavours. One dimensional but still good.	<b>2012</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2012-2021</b>
<b>2013:</b> nervy nose bordering on volatile, with pronounced acidity and crisp palate. A lighter, version, still with fruit drive.	<b>2013</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2013-2020</b>
<b>2014:</b> dark, vibrant fruit, pleasant but not distinctive.	<b>2014</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2014-2022</b>
<b>2015:</b> smooth and easy to drink, with accessible tannins and supple dark fruits.	<b>2015</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2015-2025</b>
<b>2016:</b> rather brutish and a touch stewed, covering the usual rich blackcurrant hues and spice.	<b>2016</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2016-2025</b>
<b>2017:</b> mixed dark fruits, spice and sappy tannins on an angular and modest wine.	<b>2017</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2018-2027</b>
<b>2018:</b> identity crises with a Shiraz due to soft tannins, lush dark fruits, full body and comforting feel, pleasant but a typical.	<b>2018</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2019-2027</b>

**2019:** generous winter berry dark fruit, indistinct and simple but finishing with a pleasant leather tang.

**2019 84 2020-2028**

**2020:** deep, intense and robust cooked blackcurrant fruit with a hint of wood and lush spice, enjoyable but brief.

**2020 86 2021-2028**

## Shiraz/Mourvedre/Viognier

RR

**2013:** dark, silky fruit, dry and pleasing, Viognier hidden among hedgerow briar.

**2013 86 2013-2022**

**2014:** rather swamped in sweet wood notes and with dusty indistinct black fruits.

**2014 80 2014-2024**

**2016:** robust and full, with ripe black fruits, spice and garden herbs, with lovely harmony and balance, plump and nicely pliant.

**2016 87 2017-2027**

**2018:** toasty tannins and dark fruit smokiness on the best version so far, profound plum and liquorice ooze on the finish, delicious and great value.

**2018 90 2020-2029**

## Shiraz

R

**2010:** inky with a dark plummy nose, acid lift in the mouth, just mid weight but nice dark fruit and hint of pepper and raisons.

**2010 87 2011-2019**

**2012:** lighter feel with juicy black fruit in a pleasing if straightforward way.

**2012 84 2012-2020**

**2013:** smoky nose, dominated by game and wet leather, more structured food version, very interesting and enjoyable.

**2013 84 2013-2023**

**2014:** hints of forest and leather in this more earthy release, still scented and rich and well crafted.

**2014 83 2014-2024**

**2015:** peppery and spice version, retaining the smooth accessibility of the brand. Very appealing.

**2015 84 2015-2026**

<b>2016:</b> supple and confident, with wood hint, some spice and dark forest fruit, undemanding and enjoyable.	<b>2016</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2016-2027</b>
<b>2017:</b> dark fruited and forward, with wood and spice notes and pliant tannins, easily likeable if unmemorable.	<b>2017</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2017-2028</b>
<b>2018:</b> smoky dark fruit nose, lighter mouthfeel than expected, spicy blackberry, enjoyable and undemanding.	<b>2018</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2019-2028</b>
<b>2020:</b> intensely black fruited with some mocha note, spice and chunky fruit. Good value.	<b>2020</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2021-2029</b>

## Lauréat

RR

<b>2010:</b> a smack of sinewy oak over dark spicy fruit, a wine with serious pretensions but not quite there.	<b>2010</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2011-2020</b>
<b>2011:</b> beautifully balanced and drinkable young, but with fruit quality and gentle oak for the long haul.	<b>2011</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2013-2022</b>
<b>2013:</b> polished and very appealing at age six, with classic Cassis and cedar restraint, balance, intrigue and hints of spice and leather, terrific.	<b>2013</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2015-2024</b>
<b>2016:</b> lovely ripe fruit in a restrained, finely crafted style, with enough structure behind sweet dark fruits and elegant mouthfeel, another classic.	<b>2016</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2017-2029</b>
<b>2017:</b> blueberry, Morello cherry and spice nose, then oak tobacco and rich fruit palate, ripe and full with a fresh lift finish.	<b>2017</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2019-2029</b>