



**MATEYA**  
SAFARI LODGE

# Welcome to Mateya Safari Lodge

## The Legend

In the northern reaches of the place now known as Southern Africa, there ruled a kind and caring queen, her name, Queen Mateya. In these parts there was a terrible drought. The queen was informed by her messengers of the powerful Queen of Modjadji (the one that controls rain). Queen Mateya decided she should seek out the Queen of Modjadji to ask her to bring them rain so that her people should suffer no more. Queen Mateya commanded her worksmen to make the most exquisite necklace that she would give as a gift to the Rain Queen.

Upon Queen Mateya's journey through the wild lands of Africa to find the Rain Queen (there was no email or internet let alone telephones then) she set up camp in the area now known as the Madikwe and built a kraal from stone and other materials she found in the area. After many months Queen Mateya found the Queen of Modjadji and presented her with the exquisite jewel encrusted necklace. She then left on the long journey back to her kingdom. The rains had already begun in her kingdom, the fields were rejuvenated and Queen Mateya's people were happy once again.

Unfortunately the legend goes that Queen Mateya never made it back to her people, and the Queen of Modjadji was never relayed the information of the wonderful life saving rain she had created.

Mateya Safari Lodge now stands testament to this legend, built essentially from materials found in the Madikwe reserve by a most caring, kind, and ecologically sensitive team of individuals. It is here that you will find the very essence of nature.

## History

The Madikwe region has been witness to human settlements and struggles for tens of thousands of years. Several Stone Age and Iron Age sites are located on the reserve. Artifacts discovered at the Marico River date as far back as the Early Stone Age, between 250 000 and a million years ago.

More recently, Madikwe was the site of African tribal migration and thereafter European colonial settlement. Indeed, the complex and dynamic human struggles that have shaped the historical and cultural heritage of present-day South Africa have all, in some way or another, been experienced and contributed to upon the land that is today one of the most beautiful nature game reserves in the world. In fact, it was here that Sir David Livingstone, the famous discoverer, first met and later married Mary Moffat.

It is more fitting, in the context of the Mateya Safari Lodge, to highlight this historical instance of harmony and romance, for therein is a metaphor for the programme of human and ecological development which today is shaping the prosperous future of this beautiful stretch of land.

## Geography

The oldest exposed rocks on the reserve are estimated at around 2630 million years old, calculated using radiometric dating.

Inselberg hills (rock formations that rise abruptly from the surrounding plains, and are often dome shaped) are scattered throughout the reserve. The formation of these hills, referred to as the Gabbro, coincided with a remarkable process in the history of South Africa, which was coming to its end about 200km away from the present site of the reserve. The great pile of sediments that today make up the gold bearing Witwatersrand Basin appears not to have spread as far as the present day Madikwe, the lava certainly did. It is fitting then to note that the heritage of South Africa's wealth the prosperity was formed very near to Mateya, which is one of South Africa's most exclusive private game lodges.



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## Sparkling Wines & MCC

*As the term Champagne, or even méthode champenoise is forbidden, South Africans have labelled their bottle-fermented sparkling wines as MCC (Method Cap Classique). These are mostly made using Champagne varieties, chardonnay and pinot noir, but also chenin blanc (as used for Crémant in France's Loire Valley).*

### Graham Beck Blanc de Blanc 2003

As the name suggests, 100% chardonnay Méthode Cap Classique. Vibrantly fresh with a fine, creamy mousse and flavours of baked apple and citrus-peel. Complexity and a long, full-flavoured, dry finish make this the Cape's classiest bubbly.

### Graham Beck Brut 2000

Region: Robertson

Bottle-fermented in Graham Beck's Robertson cellar, this 50/50 blend of chardonnay and pinot noir remains on its lees for two years, resulting in complex brioche aromas. This was the celebratory bubbly served at Nelson Mandela's inauguration.

### Graham Beck Brut Rosé 2005

Region: Robertson

Attractive salmon pink in colour, with delicate raspberry fruit flavours from 80% pinot noir component. Subtle and sophisticated, with freshness and a rich, creamy complexity.

### Pierre Jourdan Brut NV

Region: Franschhoek

The beautiful Cabrière Estate is home of Pierre Jourdan wines, granted to the refugee French Huguenot farmer of that name in 1694. Pierre Jourdan Brut is a classic blend of 60% chardonnay and 40% pinot noir. The crisp, stimulating lime characters of the chardonnay are supported by firm, structured pinot noir.

### TJ Krone Borealis Brut Rosé NV

Region: Tulbagh

A refreshing, light blush pinot noir - chardonnay blend, with a fine, creamy mousse. Delicate raspberry fruit flavours and an elegant lees yeastiness contribute to the richness & dimension.

### TJ Krone Borealis Cuvée Brut 1998

Region: Tulbagh

### TJ Krone Borealis Cuvée Brut 2000

One of the Cape's most appetising bubbly from this highly individual, family-run Tulbagh estate. Chardonnay and pinot noir, are blended to create a still wine, which is then bottle-fermented. Rich and complex, it is one of the few white wines to be made without added sulfites.

## Chenin Blanc

*This superior grape variety from France's Loire Valley has long been South Africa's workhorse 'Cinderella' variety, used in the past to make simple, fruity, pleasant wines. This past decade has seen a number of growers realise the true potential of Chenin by making serious, ageworthy, oaked wines from older, low-yielding vines. Chenin's versatility and affinity for food make it the ideal 'food wine'.*

### Jordan Chenin Blanc 2006

Region: Stellenbosch

Barrel-fermented Chenin from perfectionist husband-and-wife team, Kathy & Gary Jordan. (Labelled Jardin in the USA.) Complexity and freshness are gained from 6 months on the fine lees.

### Ken Forrester Chenin Blanc 2007

Region: Stellenbosch

Made from 30+ yr old low-yielding bush vines, top restaurateur Ken Forrester's Stellenbosch vineyards produce one of South Africa's most popular chenin's which is both fermented and matured in French oak barrels to add dimension and structure.

### Raats Original Chenin Blanc 2007

Region: Stellenbosch

New-wave Cape Chenin made by Bruwer Raats from 25 year-old low-yielding vines, where he coaxes aromas of golden delicious apples and pineapples, and citrus flavours from the grape, complementing this with some finely judged oaking in French barrels. The richly gold older vintage is an interesting example of chenin's ageability.

## Riesling

*Arguably the greatest of the white varieties. Well-made in a cool climate and given time in bottle, it is capable of developing fine complexity and shows an exceptional ability to age. It is known locally as Rhine or Weisser Riesling. This wine is easy to drink without food, but pairs well with lightly spicy dishes.*

### Klein Constantia Rhine Riesling 2001

Region: Constantia

Made in an off-dry and fuller-bodied style, this wine shows intense lychee and floral aromas. Flavours of pineapple and grapefruit are balanced by good acidity, leading to a spicy, dry finish. Honeyed botrytis and terpene characteristics from time spend in bottle are evident.

### Klein Constantia Rhine Riesling 1995

Region: Constantia

Made in an off-dry style, this wine shows its maturity in its limpid gold hue and classic terpene aroma of a well-aged Riesling. Tones of honey, marzipan and citrus add to the attractive and complex bouquet. The residual sugar and abundant, layered, fruit are beautifully balanced by a nervous acidity. Flavours of orange marmalade, limes and apples give way to a clean and dry finish.

### Weltevrede Estate Rhine Riesling 2001

Region: Robertson

This aromatic variety is made here, along the banks of the Breede (Wide) river, in a dry but flavourful style, showing some spiciness with grapefruit and apricot flavours.

## Sauvignon Blanc

*South Africa's rendition of this fashionable variety lies in style somewhere between the two best known international examples of Sauvignon Blanc, from Sancerre (with its classic minerality) and (modern, pungently-styled) New Zealand. Most are cool-fermented in stainless steel and the few that are oaked, are made in the typically Californian Fumé Blanc style.*

### Bouchard Finlayson Sauvignon Blanc 2007

Region: Walker Bay

The long cool summers in maritime Walker Bay area allow grapes sufficient time to develop and concentrate the fruit aromas and flavours so immediately evident in this wine. Crisp acidity provides balance for the rich passion fruit and pineapple flavours, carrying through to a delicious flavourful finish.

### Cape Point Stonehaven Sauvignon Blanc 2008

Region: Cape Point

The cool southern ocean breezes fan the vineyards of Cape Point during the summer, resulting in fresh citrus flavours tempering the riper tropical notes on the rich and lively finish.

### Cederberg Sauvignon Blanc 2002 & 2007

Region: Cederberg

From remote and rugged Cederberg mountains north of Cape Town (where leopards and cedar trees are still found). The high altitude ensures a long, cool growing season, yielding a fresh, crisp and aromatic style of sauvignon.

### Hermanuspietersfontein No3 Sauvignon Blanc 2007

Region: Elgin

This new winery (abbreviated HPF) is named for the original Afrikaans name of Hermanus, a coastal town frequented by whales in the cool Hemel-en-Aarde valley. Typically herbaceous cool-climate sauvignon with crisp acidity lending an elegant finish.

### Jordan Sauvignon Blanc 2006 & 2007

Region: Stellenbosch

Freshly aromatic, herbaceous sauvignon characteristics come to the fore in this unwooded wine. Crisp, balanced acidity and a flavourful finish make this a delightful example of Cape Sauvignon Blanc.

### Klein Constantia Sauvignon Blanc

Vintages: 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005 & 2007

Region: Constantia

This historic estate is well known for its full-bodied expression of this variety. Vines enjoy fresh breezes from both the Atlantic and Indian oceans on either side of the narrow Cape peninsula. This cool climate shows in the concentrated fig and capsicum aromas, and intense fruit flavours which enable years of bottle ageing.

### Springfield Special Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc 2007

Region: Robertson

A thoroughly appealing and concentrated wine that expresses its unique sand-rock soils and terroir. The lovely lively acidity adds an extra dimension to this wine, with its layers of granadilla fruit and long mineral finish.

### Thelema Sauvignon Blanc 2007

Region: Stellenbosch

Sauvignons from this well-regarded Stellenbosch property are made to be drunk young and fresh. Tropical fruit and grapefruit flavours are balanced by vibrant acidity. Enjoy its charm on its own or with seafood dishes.

### Vergelegen Sauvignon Blanc 2004

Region: Stellenbosch

Consistently voted South Africa's best winery because of the high standard of winemaking across their range, Vergelegen pays great attention in the vineyards, producing fruit of outstanding quality. This unoaked, dry and refreshing sauvignon exhibits fig and gooseberry aromas and flavours and a lean, mineral finish.

## Chardonnay

*A relative newcomer in the Cape, the first vines were imported in the early '80s. Having no particularly strong varietal characteristics, it is a wine that is made in the cellar. Styles vary from heavily-oaked and full bodied, through lean, crisp and lightly-oaked to unwooded.*

### Bouchard Finlayson Chardonnay 2007

Region: Walker Bay

This winery was established as a venture between 10th generation Burgundian négociant Paul Bouchard, and former Hamilton Russell winemaker Peter Finlayson. This unoaked, fresh Chablis-styled Chardonnay, with its crisp acidity is beautifully made, exhibiting attractive peach and citrus aromas and flavours.

### Buitenverwachting Chardonnay

Region: Constantia

Pronounced bay-tin-fuh-vagh-tung, meaning 'beyond expectations' this Constantia estate makes a classic, oaked chardonnay which offers a combination of ripe melon, peach and lemon aromas and flavours of almond and butterscotch.

### Cape Point Chardonnay 2004

Region: Cape Point

The complexity gained from the winemaking techniques employed in the making of this 100% barrel fermented, whole-bunch pressed Chardonnay is obvious, with its golden hue, concentrated vanilla and lime aromas and flavours.

### Constantia Uitsig Chardonnay 2002, 2004 & 2005

Region: Constantia

Unwooded, fresh and fruity style of chardonnay from the cool Constantia Valley. Crisp acidity balances rich apple and citrus flavours. Ideal as a lunchtime drink.

### Jordan Nine Yards Chardonnay 2003

Region: Stellenbosch

Selected for its rich style, this reserve chardonnay is consistently well-crafted each vintage by eco-conscious Stellenbosch growers Gary and Kathy Jordan. Burgundian oak maturation 'sur lie' ensures creamy complexity and freshness in this bold expression of Burgundy's white grape.

### Klein Constantia Chardonnay 2004 , 2005 & 2006

Region: Constantia

Charming barrel-fermented and matured chardonnay from the cool, southern ocean swept vineyards on the back slopes of Table Mountain. Citrus and lime aromas and flavours mingle with the subtle oak, while crisp acidity carries the creamy textured finish.

### Meerlust Chardonnay 1998

Region: Stellenbosch

By far the most weighty, oxidative style of Chardonnay produced in the Cape in the 90s. Barrel fermented in heavy toast new French oak by colourful Italian winemaker, Giorgio dalla Cia. Aromas of butterscotch, roasted almonds and toasty oak are abundant in this complex and serious wine.

### Meerlust Chardonnay 2006

Region: Stellenbosch

A different style of chardonnay has been pursued at Meerlust by winemaker Chris Williams since taking over the reins from Dalla Cia in the 2004 vintage, tending towards a fresher, less oxidative and more minerally style.

**Meerlust Chardonnay 2006**

Region: Stellenbosch

This vintage saw the second bottling of Chardonnay from this venerable estate. Generous oaking, lengthy lees contact and a number of years of bottle age have ensured a complex structure, mellowness and the development of honey, hazelnut, nougat and marzipan flavours.

**Mulderbosch Chardonnay 2003 & 2006**

Region: Stellenbosch

One of the Wine Spectator's perennial favourites; this chardonnay is always packed with ripe tropical fruit and citrus flavours, supported by gravelly acidity and a lean minerality on the finish.

**Oak Valley Chardonnay 2005**

Region: Elgin

From the high-altitude Elgin valley farm of the same name, this rich, luxuriously oaked chardonnay exhibits abundant, vibrant citrus fruit and a long, deliciously flavoursome finish, reflecting the cool conditions during harvest.

**Radford Dale Chardonnay 2007**

Region: Stellenbosch

The flagship range of The Winery of Good Hope, owned by Burgundy raised Englishman Alex Dale who is passionate about this Burgundian variety, fermented in oak. Deliciously complex, soft oatmeal and citrus profile, with well judged oak detail.

**Springfield Méthode Ancienne Chardonnay 1999**

Region: Robertson

Most of the wines produced at this 5th generation family estate are fermented with native yeasts and bottled unfiltered, unfinned and unstabilised, in keeping with 'Ancient' Burgundian practices - a high-risk exercise with a success rate of 2 in 5 vintages. Wines are harvested and crushed without the use of sulfites, and spend 14 months in French oak. Rich and full-bodied, with a contrasting edge in the focused finish.

**Springfield Wild Yeast Chardonnay 2004**

Region: Robertson

Harvested in the cool of night and fermented with natural yeasts, this delightful chardonnay is bottled unfiltered and unfinned. Although unoaked, the wine richness and dimension from contact with the fine lees.

**Whalehaven Chardonnay 2000**

Region: Walker Bay

Oak fermented and matured in the cool Hemel-en-Aarde (Heaven and Earth) Valley. This boutique winery was established by ex-Hamilton Russell winemaker Storm Kreuzsch, who is known for her distinctly elegant style of winemaking.

**Rupert & Rothschild Baroness Nadine**

Region: Franschhoek

A classic, Burgundian-styled Cape wine from this joint venture between the Rupert and Rothschild families, who share the goal to produce world-class wines. Pomerol guru Michel Rolland consults at this well-regarded winery. Extravagantly, but judiciously oaked, this wine shows structure, creamy complexity and a long, lime-flavoured finish.

## White Blends

*Considered internationally as South Africa's 'next big thing', premium white blends are being made in ultra-serious styles from various grape varieties.*

### Haute Cabriere Chardonnay – Pinot Noir 2007

Region: Franschhoek

Alluring, lightly tinted non-sparkling blend of champagne grapes, by one of the Cape's oldest bubbly producers Achim von Arnim, offering a generously full mouthfeel and impressive fruit richness.

## Pinot Grigio

*Pinot Gris is white wine grape variety of the species Vitis Vinifera. The wines produced from this grape also vary in color from a deep golden yellow to copper and even a light shade of pink. The clone of Pinot Gris grown in Italy is known as Pinot Grigio.*

### Pozzi Pinot Grigio delle Venezi 2007

Region: Italy

Dry but fruity and refreshing white wine from pinot grigio grapes grown in the northeastern Veneto region of Italy. Ideal as an aperitif for hot summer days, or enjoy with salads, fish dishes or oriental cuisine.

### Lamberti Pinot Grigio 2007

Region: Italy

Lamberti is one of the oldest wine companies in Italy's Veneto region. Pinot grigio is popular as a refreshing and versatile wine: serve chilled on its own, and savour the dry, delicate citrus, almond and soft spicy flavours, or enjoy with lightly spicy dishes.

### Tera Del Capo Pinot Grigio 2008

Region: Franschhoek

Charmingly light and spicy white from this popular Italian variety – one of only two examples produced in South Africa. Green apple and white peach flavours are balanced by refreshingly zesty acidity.

## Rose & Blanc de Noir

*The better quality wines of this style are fermented dry to off-dry from red grapes, the wine being in contact with the skins just long enough to acquire a pink, salmon or onion-skin colour. Ideal for lunchtime and al-fresco eating, rosé goes well with just about any fish, chicken or ham dish.*

### Asara Rosé 2007

Region: Stellenbosch

An attractive and charming wine, one of the more complex of this style. Made by 'bleeding' red grapes, merlot, cabernet and shiraz to produce a dry, well-balanced pink-coloured wine.

### Jordan Chameleon Rosé

Region: Stellenbosch

Provençal-styled rosé made in traditional fashion to be enjoyed with food. Fresh strawberry and red berry fruits flesh out a firmly structured palate. A versatile lunchtime wine.

### Boschendal Blanc de Noir 2002

Region: Stellenbosch

Salmon-pink in colour and just off-dry in style, this 'White from Black' wine is made from pinot noir and merlot. It is well-balanced, with aromas of Turkish Delight and flavours of cherries.

## Pinotage

*South Africa's only 'indigenous' grape – a 1920s crossing of Burgundy's Pinot Noir and Cinsault (then locally known as Hermitage) from the Rhône. The wines on this list are some of the best examples of the quality the variety is capable of when carefully handled.*

### Clos Malverne Pinotage 2004 & 2005

Region: Stellenbosch

Lighter-styled, earlier-drinking but well made 'regular' version of this grape from fans of the pinotage grape, Clos Malverne.

### Graham Beck Old Road Pinotage 1999

Region: Franschhoek

A limited release from Graham Beck's coastal, red wine only cellar. Rich plum and dark chocolate intermingle with delicate mint flavours. Ripe fruit tannins give a structured mouthfeel in this accessible, deliciously succulent and fruit-driven wine.

### Grangehurst Pinotage 2001

Region: Stellenbosch

Grangehurst's maiden 1992 vintage was vinified on a converted squash court. Since then, this specialist red wine cellar has lost none of its handcrafted appeal. One of the Cape's best pinotages, it is firmly structured, yet elegant, showing good depth and complexity.

### Groene Cloof Pinotage 1999 & 2000

Region: Darling

Now known as Cloof and under new ownership, situated along the Cape's west coast, the climate is ideal for big juicily styled pinotage.

### L'Avenir Pinotage 2000

Region: Stellenbosch

This vintage maintains L'Avenir's reputation for fine Pinotage (from dry land 35 year old vines), with plenty of gold medals both here and abroad. Dark chocolate, mocha and ripe banana on the nose. Rich, ripe plummy fruit combined with spice fills the mouth, ending in a long ripe firm finish.

### Laibach Pinotage 2006

Region: Stellenbosch

Intensely coloured and flavoured Pinotage – a fine example of this native grape variety. Matured in French oak (and some American), it is unfiltered, giving a full, softly textured, juicy mouthful.

## Pinot Noir

*A relative newcomer in the Cape. A very cool climate is essential for notoriously fussy grape. (The best are grown at high altitude, or in areas cooled by Antarctic breezes.) Quality has improved steadily over the years as clones improve and winemakers become more experienced with the variety. Good Pinot always accompanies a wide variety of meals from rich seafood to pan fried beef fillet, duck, Parma ham and mushrooms.*

### De Trafford Pinot Noir 2001

Region: Stellenbosch

High-grown grapes from architect David Trafford's mountainside Stellenbosch vineyards. Natural yeast fermented, and matured in French oak for 14 months. This wine shows spicy dark cherry and earthy aromas. On the palate it is tightly structured and finely textured, and is unfolding into a charming and complex wine.

### Haute Cabriere Pinot Noir 2005

Region: Stellenbosch

The Haute Cabrière Pinot Noir brings to mind dark berries backed by perfectly integrated tannins. Aromas of raspberries, cherries, ground black pepper precede earthy, wild berry flavours and a soft finish.

### Klein Constantia Pinot Noir 2001

Region: Constantia

The inherent difficulties of growing this variety are made more so by the baboons that arrive from the neighbouring Table Mountain Reserve to feast on the ripened grapes. This wine's subtle smoky aromas mingle with attractive cherry and red berry fruit. The light, satin texture is backed by sappy red fruit and soft tannins, followed by a satisfying savoury finish.

### Newton Johnson Pinot Noir 2006

Region: Hemel-en-Aarde

Much in demand, this fine pinot grown in the cool Hemel-en-Aarde (Heaven & Earth) valley. Made in a voluptuous, juicy style with pure cherry and cranberry flavours and underlying earthiness.

## Cabernet Franc

*Not often found as a single varietal in South Africa, although relatively widely grown, it is mostly blended with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.*

### High Constantia Cabernet Franc

Region: Constantia

Small volumes of the noble Cabernet Franc are handcrafted in the cellar of this little corner of Cape Town's Constantia Valley. Dark, rich plum colour with characteristics lifted by aromatics of spice and berries, complemented by subtle use of French oak.

## Shiraz / Syrah

*Known locally as either Shiraz or Syrah, this variety is currently undergoing a revival in the Cape. Styles vary from full-blown and fruit-driven, reminiscent of those from Australia's Barossa Valley, to the more restrained, classic and perfumed style from France's Rhône Valley.*

### Fairview Shiraz 2006 & 2007

Region: Paarl

Fairview's signature grape variety since 1974. Distinctively smoky and spicy tones with plushly ripe red fruit flavours underpinned by ripe but firm tannins from maturation in oak barrels.

### Graham Beck "The Ridge" Syrah 1999

Region: Robertson

Limited release. Rhône-styled deep, rich and plummy in colour with warm intense, smoky bouquet, typical spice and white pepper flavours. Named for single vineyard on red limestone ridge. Matured in mostly French oak, with touch of American.

### Graham Beck Coastal Shiraz 2003 & 2004

Region: Franschhoek

Considered by winemakers as a vintage from heaven, 2003 yielded fruit with concentrated flavours and good acidity, while 2004 displays more boldness. This Franschhoek-grown shiraz was matured in both American and French oak, providing a structural backdrop for the rich mulberry flavours.

### Hartenberg Shiraz 2004 & 2005

Region: Stellenbosch

An elegant and fragrant shiraz exhibiting earthy, spicy and smoky aromas, and soft ripe dark fruit flavours. Smooth tannins make it very drinkable in its youth, though it will continue to gain complexity with time in bottle.

### Waterford Kevin Arnold Shiraz 1999 & 2001

Region: Stellenbosch

Kevin Arnold was winemaker at Rust en Vrede Estate for many years before establishing Waterford. His Shiraz is made in a rich and concentrated style: dark fruit laced with spice and roasted coffee beans, and spends a year in American & French oak.

### Muratie Shiraz 2000

Region: Stellenbosch

A five star maiden Shiraz vintage from this quaint and very old property. Intensely aromatic, smoked ham and ground pepper, leading through to rich mocha and ripe blackberry fruit on palate, with long, savoury finish.

### Rust en Vrede Shiraz 1999

Region: Stellenbosch

Shiraz is Rust en Vrede's signature variety, consistently rated as one of the Cape's best for its hedonistic smoky spicy fragrance. Packed with rich, ripe mulberry fruit flavours which express the warmer 1999 vintage.

### Simonsig Merindol Syrah 1998

Region: Stellenbosch

Single vineyard selection from this family owned winery. This densely coloured wine shiraz aromas of red berries, herbs and pepper. Further complexity is contributed by the spicy flavours of French and American barrels. Ripe fruit flavours carry through to the finish in this excellent vintage.

**Slaley Shiraz 2000**

Region: Stellenbosch

A warm and dry vintage yielded a ripe, deeply coloured wine with a strong spiciness on the nose and firm but soft tannins on the palate. French and American oak maturation for 15 months.

**Stony Brook Shiraz Reserve 2001**

Region: Franschhoek

Crafted by former medical doctor, Nigel Mc Naught, in his boutique Franschhoek winery, in a modern and approachable, but at the same time serious, style. The concentration of fruit and appropriate wooding (all French oak) make for a well held-together and appealing wine.

**Flagstone Strata Shindig Shiraz 2000**

Region: Franschhoek

An experimental, once-off wine under the name Flagstone Strata. These wines are crafted in miniscule amounts – often, only a few barrels will ever exist. Dense, dark red in colour, with aromas of ripe plum, cocoa and red berry framed with toasty oak. Complex palate with dense, weighty tannin and ripe juicy red fruit.

**Gilga Shiraz 2001**

Region: Stellenbosch

Perfectionist winemaker, Chris Joubert of well-regarded Overgaauw Estate, aims to express himself in his own label Syrah. Small volumes, which have a cult following, are crafted into wines of great personality, showing layers of blackberry fruit, cloves, pepper and fine, firm ripe tannins. Matured in French oak for 15 months.

## Merlot

*A traditional blending partner with cabernet sauvignon, this variety fairly recently started making its own way as a single varietal wine, and shows great promise in the Cape, though only in better vintages.*

### Bein Merlot 2003

Region: Stellenbosch

Swiss vets and Pomerol fans Ingrid & Luca Bein switched to winemaking after falling in love with the Cape winelands. Tiny amounts of this silkily textured, fresh and elegant wine are made from their 2 hectares of (Merlot only) vines. Well-judged use of oak allows the polished plum fruit to shine through.

### Bilton Merlot 2001

Region: Stellenbosch

Available in very limited quantities, this Merlot from the Bilton cellar has a deep mulberry colour with aromas and flavours of violets, ripe plums, chocolate and cherries. Plush, soft tannins make it ready to drink now.

### Cordoba Merlot 1998

Region: Stellenbosch

This winery can be found clinging to the steep slopes of the Helderberg mountains, where the cool climate yields wines of fine and vivid fruit quality. Aromas of violets, mocha and chocolate, and flavours of plum and maraschino cherries integrate well with the toasty vanilla oak character acquired from 18 months in French oak barriques.

### Devon Hill Merlot 2000

Region: Stellenbosch

Maturation in Seguin Moreau casks imparts velvety oak tannins to ample plum fruit yielded by a warm dry vintage. Drinking well now.

### Havana Hills Merlot 2005

Region: Stellenbosch

This cellar, which commands a spectacular view of Table Bay and Table Mountain has asserted itself as a producer of quality wines. Alain Mouïex of Merlot-famed Pomerol consults here, aiming to produce a full, soft-styled, complex and generous wine.

### Ridgeback Merlot 2003

Region: Paarl

Beguiling aromas of violets, plums, mocha and oak spice promise (and deliver) a refined and complex wine with a full, textured mouthfeel and deliciously savoury finish.

### Slaley Merlot 1999

Region: Stellenbosch

The Hunting family of Slaley owned a large shipping line for a century until the second world war, hence the maritime-themed labels. This intense wine is dark red in colour, with a bouquet reminiscent of carnations, plums and berries with a touch of saddle leather and soft tannins. Matured in French and American oak for 18 months.

### Spier Private Collection Merlot 1999

Region: Stellenbosch

A warm vintage resulting in an accessible, ready-to-drink plummy Merlot from this 1692-dated farm (now part of Spier Holdings and a well-known, popular tourist destination).

**Thelema Merlot 2000**

Region: Stellenbosch

Sought-after expressive merlot from pioneering winemaker Gyles Webb's beautiful property at the top of the Helshoogte Pass. The 2000 vintage is firm and gutsy with plush tannins and merlot's trademark fleshy plum fruit.

**Yonder Hill Merlot 2004**

Region: Stellenbosch

Boutique-sized winery's flagship – a polished, brightly fruited, youthful and complex wine with firm, soft tannins imparting structure. Approachable now, with food.

**Vergelegen Merlot 2004**

Region: Stellenbosch

A sumptuous merlot, with rich red berry fruit flavours, which is ready to enjoy now. This elegantly styled wine from prime Stellenbosch property, Vergelegen, spent 20 months in French barrels, resulting in a fine, ripe tannin structure which carries the fruit graciously through to the finish.

## Cabernet Sauvignon

### Cederberg Cabernet Sauvignon 2004

Region: Cederberg

The dry climate and high altitude, mountainous Cederberg vineyards are capable of producing excellent, healthy grapes – the mark of this beautifully balanced and richly flavoured, deliciously drinkable and fine wine.

### Cordoba Cabernet Sauvignon 1997

Region: Stellenbosch

These high, cool vineyards always manage to produce wines of great finesse, initially understated and requiring a few years in bottle to unfold their charms. Still restrained, but showing cigar box and blackcurrant fruit, with some minerality and a long dry finish. Matured in French oak for 18 months.

### Devon Hill Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

Region: Stellenbosch

This winery is situated in Stellenbosch's beautiful Devon Valley. This is a generous, full soft wine with blackberry flavours and smooth, ripe tannins

### Devonair Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

Region: Stellenbosch

Only 900 cases of this Devonair's only wine, were made. An attractive mouthfeel, with lots of ripe black and red berry fruit and tight-knit tannins.

### Flagstone Music Room 1999

Region: Western Cape

Australian-trained maverick winemaker Bruce Jack believes that good texture and balance are of fundamental importance in a wine. This smooth, well-balanced Cabernet Sauvignon is a seamlessly integrated example.

### Flagstone Strata Rockwood Cabernet 2000

Region: Western Cape

A once-off label under the Flagstone's Strata range. The nose shows overt ripe red fruit and spicy oak, with hints of fennel, mint, cinnamon and chocolate. On the palate the wine is soft and accessible with juicy generous tannin and balanced acidity. The flavours are complex and intense with cassis, mocha and strawberry.

### Graham Beck Cornerstone Cabernet 1998

Region: Franschhoek

A single vineyard reserve wine, made from low-yielding vines rooted in unique coffee stone and decomposed granite soils. Serious boutique style, concentrated and complex, showing dense blackberry fruit and plush tannins.

### Jordan Cabernet Sauvignon 1998, 2004 & 2005

Region: Stellenbosch

Concentrated Bordeaux-like development of cedarwood and minerality. Intense rich berry and minty flavours are balanced by soft, ripe tannins and a complex toasty finish. Matured in French oak for 18 months, and only roughly filtered before bottling. Sold in the US under the Jardin label.

## Cabernet Sauvignon Continued

### Klein Constantia Cabernet Sauvignon 2006

Region: Constantia

This venerable estate relaunched their cabernet after a 3-year hiatus, in a bolder, more generously fruited style, with dollops of cabernet franc and merlot. Compact flavours are seamlessly underpinned by tannins from maturation in new oak.

### Le Riche Cabernet Sauvignon 1999

Region: Stellenbosch

Etienne Le Riche, a French Huguenot descendant left the famous Rustenberg estate in 1996 to establish his own winery. His wines were an immediate success. This full-bodied wine is remarkably aromatic, with layers of sweet, cedary oak and a supple, succulent and rich palate. Tannins are firm but ripe. French oak maturation for 15 months.

### Laibach Cabernet Sauvignon 2004

Region: Stellenbosch

A stylishly made cabernet yielding bright fruit aromas and plushly textured flavours. Blended with a touch of merlot to flesh out the mid-palate, before maturation in French oak barrels.

### Paul Cluver Cabernet Sauvignon 2004

Region: Elgin

Distinctively herbal, cool-climate rendition of this powerful variety from the high altitude Elgin plateau. Cassis fruit flavours are structured by a backbone of tannin, leading to a dry finish.

### Spier Private Collection Cabernet Sauvignon

Vintages: 1998 & 1999

Region: Stellenbosch

The reserve selection from Spier Estate, from low-yielding vines. Restrained but powerful style, with good balance of fruit, acidity and tannins. French oak aged for 14 months. The warmer 1999 vintage resulted in a less serious but open and approachable wine for earlier drinking.

### Springfield Whole Berry Cabernet Sauvignon

Vintages: 1999, 2004 & 2005

Region: Robertson

Cabernet Sauvignon in which uncrushed 'whole' grapes are fermented with native yeasts to extract delicate fruit flavours and soft tannins. Winemaker, Abrie Bruwer is well known for his non-interventionist style of winemaking.

### Springfield Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 & 1998

Region: Robertson

An attractive, very fruity wine from this singular estate. The precursor to their 'Whole Berry' labelled wine, in which whole grapes are fermented with wild yeasts before going into the press. Tannins from 12 months French oak maturation underpins the mulberry & cherry fruit flavours.

### Thelema Cabernet Sauvignon 1999

Region: Stellenbosch

Thelema led the way in the early 90s in producing distinctively modern-styled & accessible cabernets with the ability to age well. This powerful, emphatic example, from a good vintage, is still a little austere, with tight-knit fruit & firm, ripe tannins, and exhibiting blackcurrant fruit and signature mintiness. Matured for 18 months in French barriques. Approachable now, with food, but built for the long haul.

### Waterford Cabernet Sauvignon

Vintages: 1999 & 2005

Region: Stellenbosch

Ripe blackcurrant fruit and subtle oak vanillans dominate the aroma spectrum. Firm tannins characteristic of thick-skinned cabernet balance the layers of rich blackberry fruit flavours, leading to a long savoury finish. Matured for 10 Months in French and American oak barrels.

## Red Blends

*Welgemeend Estate pioneered the first Cape bordeaux-style (Meritage) blend in the 70s, followed soon after by Meerlust Estate. These blends now number more than 170, and are generally of the highest quality, and in most cases make the producer's flagship wine. Recently, a number of wineries have also successfully blended Shiraz with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.*

### Avondale Julia 2000

Region: Stellenbosch

The typical Bordelais blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc is fleshed out with ruby cabernet and French and American oak. A fruity, opulent bouquet belies give firm flavours.

### Backsberg Klein Babylonstoren 2000 & 2001

Region: Paarl

This family owned winery have (with the help of American viticultural consultants) been pioneering modern methods since the early 80s, when they first produced this dense-fruited blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc.

### Camberly Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot 2000

Region: Stellenbosch

A charming and elegant wine from this diminutive property, aged 14 months in both French and Russian oak. A blend of 80% cabernet sauvignon and merlot, showing sweet red berry fruit, fine tannins and savoury acidity.

### Cederberg Cederberg 2002

Region: Cederberg

The Cape's highest altitude vineyards in Cederberg mountains, north of Cape Town, are producing some impressive wines. This lightly oaked and styled Merlot-Pinotage is their everyday blend suitable for drinking with or without food.

### Cordoba Crescendo 1998

Region: Stellenbosch

Cordoba winemaker Chris Keet excels vintage upon vintage with this sought-after classic, an unusual blend of 65% Cabernet Franc and 35% Merlot. An intense yet restrained wine, showing off whiffs of cedarwood and blackcurrant. Savoury acidity and a firm structure lead to a lengthy dry finish.

### Glen Carlou Grand Classique 1999

Region: Paarl

Classic name for this blend of all five Bordeaux varieties: cabernets sauvignon and franc, merlot, malbec and petit verdot matured for 2 years in French oak. Aromas of cloves and cassis are followed by plush blackberry flavours with ripe tannins.

### Kanonkop Kadette 2004

Region: Stellenbosch

A distinctly 'Cape' blend of pinotage (60%) with balance of Merlot and the three cabernets (sauvignon, franc and ruby). Plum and blackcurrant spiciness, and pinotage sweetness make this an easy-drinking style.

### Klein Constantia KC Cabernet – Merlot 2003

Region: Constantia

Stellenbosch fruit from their Anwilka farm is vinified at Klein Constantia for their 2nd label KC range. Soft tannins from moderate barrel ageing complement the fresh, juicy red fruit flavours.

### Klein Constantia Marlbrook

Region: Constantia

Deep intensity ruby coloured blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc (50/40/10), with rich red berry fruit on both nose and palate. Refined and smoothly textured, showing appealing complexity. Matured in French oak barriques for 24 months.

**La Motte Millennium 2003 & 2004**

Region: Franschhoek

Classic merlot-dominated blend, with the rest of the Bordeaux varieties blended in to achieve a harmonious wine structured by maturation in French barrels.

**Le Riche Cabernet – Merlot 2001**

Region: Stellenbosch

A blend of 75% cabernet sauvignon and 25% merlot. Vibrant and firm, rich and round, with soft tannins. A well-styled, fine and generous wine.

**Meinert Cabernet – Merlot 1998**

Region: Stellenbosch

A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, and matured for 2 years in French oak barriques. A lavish wine with deep colour, ripe, spicy wild-berry fruit, lead pencil aromas and underlying chocolate tones.

**Mont Du Toit 2000**

Region: Wellington

This warm-climate Wellington cellar made an international splash with their 1998 vintage. The 2000 vintage, made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Shiraz and Cabernet Franc is a big, ripe wine with structured cassis and eucalyptus fruit. It spent 22 months in French oak.

**Morgenster Lourens River Valley 1999**

Region: Stellenbosch

A Merlot dominant blend (62%) with cabernet sauvignon from this quality-conscious property (Pierre Lurton of Cheval Blanc consults). This is the property's second wine, showing restraint and style typical of the wines of the Médoc.

**Rickety Bridge Paulina's Reserve 1996**

Region: Franschhoek

67 % Cabernet Sauvignon/ 33 % Merlot. The best barrels from components of the 2000 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2000 Merlot were selected and blended for this reserve wine. Tightly packed layers of black fruit flavours with firm tannins and lingering finish. Matured for 20 months in French and American oak.

**Rustenberg John x Merriman 2000**

Region: Stellenbosch

Blend of 68 % Merlot and 32 % Cabernet Sauvignon, making a well rounded wine which has increased in complexity and character with time in bottle. Aromas of spice and red fruit balanced by fine, elegant tannins.

**Veenwouden Classic 1999**

Region: Paarl

Riper, more opulent wine than previous, due to warm vintage. A perfumed nose of violets and blackberry fruit, ripe fruit and soft tannins on the palate. A blend of 52% cabernet sauvignon, 38% merlot and 10% cabernet franc.

**Vergelegen Mill Race 2001, 2002 & 2005**

Region: Stellenbosch

This sturdy, reliable blend of cabernets sauvignon and franc and merlot is often awarded a 4 star rating in Platter's South Africa's wine guide. A well made, great value wine, it is matured in French oak, and exhibits good balance between ripe fruit and moderate tannins.

## Dessert Wines

*The term 'Noble Late Harvest' indicates a sweet dessert wine exhibiting a noble rot (botrytis) character, from grapes infected by this fungus. Mostly made from Sauvignon Blanc & Semillon (as in Sauternes), Riesling (Rhine Valley) and Chenin Blanc (Loire Valley). Also made from grapes dried either on the vine or on straw mats.*

### Cape Point Noble Late Harvest 2001

Region: Cape Point

The maritime climate of these vineyards create the perfect conditions for the development of botrytis, or noble rot, in the traditional Sauternes varieties, semillon and sauvignon blanc, that make this lusciously sweet dessert wine. Typical botrytis aromas and flavours of honey, apricots and marmalade are evident, whilst the fresh, crisp acidity cleans the palate, ensuring no hint of cloying sweetness on the finish.

### De Wetshof Edeloes 2001

Region: Robertson

Produced in limited quantities from botrytised riesling grapes. An unctuous dessert wine with honey, pineapple and apricot aromas and flavours, and a long clean finish.

### Kanu Kai Oro Noble Late Harvest 2004

Region: Stellenbosch

Chenin Blanc is the variety used for the Kia-Oro – a Maori greeting which means 'be well'. Chenin's high natural acidity balances the rich, honeyed sweetness, ensuring a refreshingly dry, mouthwatering finish.

### Paul Cluver Noble Late Harvest 2004 & 2007

Region: Elgin

A handcrafted dessert wine made in this winery on the cool Elgin plateau from botrytised riesling grapes. Excellent balance and complexity make this a thoroughly delightful, honeyed and opulent wine with a long crisp and spicy finish.

## Port & Sherry

*The past decade has seen increased plantings of the five top Portuguese grape varieties. As a result of this and other methods, the standard of this fortified wine has risen dramatically to make South Africa the best overall quality producer of this style outside of Portugal. The names Port and Sherry are forbidden on labels for export to the EU, and have to be phased out locally. Conditions in the hot, dry Karoo are not dissimilar to those in the upper reaches of Portugal's Duoro Valley.*

### Die Krans Vintage Port 2001 & 2006

Region: Klein Karoo

A lighter-style than the Vintage Reserve, made every year, showing flavours and aromas of plums and Christmas cake.

### Muratie Vintage Port 1999

Region: Stellenbosch

Classically-styled port with aromas of fruit cake, spice, chocolate and nuts – rich and deliciously satisfying.