



Our Wine List

Diners Club Platinum Award Winner: 2018, 2017, 2016 & 2015



“By making this wine known to the public, I have rendered my country as great a service as if I had enabled it to pay back the national debt.”-Thomas Jefferson

HOW TO TASTE WINE

Tasting wine should always be fun and should never be taken too seriously, but you can make it more enjoyable by having a better understanding of what you should be looking for?

LOOK



Have a look at your glass and judge the colour and clarity of the wine. Is it vibrant or dull? Cloudy or clear? What colours can you detect? Tilt the glass and look at the edge of the wine, can you detect a tinge of another colour?

SMELL



Give your glass a good swirl and stick your nose inside. Think about the different aromas you're taking in, do you smell berries, oak, flowers or a combination of all three? How many different aromas complex and interesting or simple and dull? Most importantly, are the aromas pleasant?

TASTE



Sip your glass of wine. What mouthfeel sensations can you detect? How long does the flavour last? How intense is the flavour? Do you taste the wine over your whole mouth or are there gaps? Is the wine balanced or does something stick out? Is the wine complex or simple?

REPEAT

Judge the wine over a whole glass, not just one sip. Let it evolve and tell its story.

AGE

You can tell a lot about a wine's age by looking at the colour. Older red wines have more brown and orange hues compared to younger reds. Older whites are generally darker and more golden compared to younger whites.

AROMA & FLAVOUR

All the flavours you enjoy are the aromas in the wine. When tasting wine you should try and identify the different types of aromas that are present and before long you will begin to learn the different types of aromas that you enjoy the most.

TASTE SENSATIONS

When you taste a wine you are looking for the different taste sensations caused by the wine. The different components should be balanced.

Astringency is the sensation that causes the moisture to be sucked out of your lips giving a puckering sensation. Tannin in red wines can cause astringency.

Residual sugar relates to the amount of sugar in a wine and can be detected on the tip of your tongue. A wine high in residual sugar causes a hot sensation on the tip of your tongue.

Alcohol can be detected on the middle of your tongue. A wine with unbalanced or high alcohol will cause a hot sensation in the middle of your tongue.

Acidity can be felt in the sides of your mouth. Wines that are high in acidity give a tart sensation, much like biting into a lemon.

When tasting wine you should also look at the complexity and length of flavour of the wine. Complexity refers to the number of different aromas and sensations you experience.

The best wines are highly complex, with each taste you find something new that keeps you coming back for more. To judge length of flavour, after you swallow the wine wait a short period of time and see if the flavour is still in your mouth. The best wines have fantastic length of flavour that lingers long after the wine has gone.

Source: www.ninety9bottles.com.au



WINE AND FOOD PAIRING RECOMMENDATIONS

Seafood

<i>Prawns</i>	<i>Sauvignon Blanc / Chardonnay / Chenin Blanc</i>
<i>Oysters</i>	<i>Champagne / Sparkling Wine / Chardonnay</i>
<i>Crayfish</i>	<i>Chardonnay / Semillon</i>
<i>Line Fish</i>	<i>Chardonnay / Semillon / Weisser Riesling / Chenin Blanc</i>
<i>Game Fish (Tuna, Marlin)</i>	<i>Pinot Noir / Zinfandel / Viognier</i>
<i>Calamari</i>	<i>Sauvignon Blanc / Pinot Grigio / Chenin Blanc</i>
<i>Fish Stew / Bouillabaisse</i>	<i>Pinot Grigio / Pinot Noir / Sangiovese</i>
<i>Paella</i>	<i>Rosé / Chenin Blanc</i>
<i>Mussels</i>	<i>Semillon / Chenin Blanc</i>

Poultry

<i>Chicken</i>	<i>Dry Rosé / Chardonnay / Viognier</i>
<i>Coq Au Vin</i>	<i>Pinot Noir / Pinotage / Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
<i>Quail</i>	<i>Merlot / Sangiovese / Pinot Noir</i>
<i>Duck</i>	<i>Weisser Riesling / Pinot Noir / Merlot / Shiraz</i>

Beef

Cabernet Sauvignon / Red Blends / Merlot / Petit Verdot / Malbec

Lamb

Cabernet Sauvignon / Shiraz / Pinotage / Red Blends

Pork

Wooded Chenin Blanc / Weisser Riesling / Chardonnay / Pinotage

Veal

Bordeaux Blend / Chardonnay / Pinot Grigio / Pinot Noir

Venison

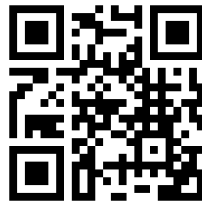
Pinotage / Shiraz / Mourvedre / Rhone Blends

Dessert

<i>Hot</i>	<i>Port / Red Muscadel</i>
<i>Cold</i>	<i>Noble Late Harvest / White Muscadel / Special Late Harvest</i>

INSTANT ONLINE ACCESS TO WINE INFORMATION

Platter's vintages, producers and wine styles can be accessed on an iPhone that is available from the App Store with a GPS enabled map. To access this on your iPhone visit www.wine-oh.info - Platter's iPhone® App.



"Language is wine upon the lips" - Virginia Woolf



Star rating courtesy of John Platter South African Wines Guide to Cellars, Vineyards and Winemakers.

*****	Superlative. A classic
****(*)	Outstanding, Fine International Standard
****	Excellent
***(*)	Very Good, Promising
***	Characterful, Appealing
**(*)	Good, Everyday drinking
**	Pleasant drinking
()	Casual quaffing
●	Garagiste - defined by a winemaker who creates fine limited production wines

RECENT CAPE VINTAGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY - FROM PLATTERS SOUTH AFRICAN WINE GUIDE 2019

2019	Again the draught affected the yields and ontop of it some farmers experienced high winds in October, during bud-break, which caused a considerable loss of crop. Uneven ripening of the bunches meant extra work in the cellar, but overall the grape producers were happy with the quality of the grapes.
2018	Wine grape producers and cellars in South Africa were positive about the quality of the wines from the 2018 harvest, despite challenging conditions resulting in one of the smallest crops in more than a decade.
2017	The South African harvest is slightly larger than last year following a dry season. Dry conditions resulted in healthy vineyards and good flavour concentration.
2016	Despite challenging climate conditions and a significantly smaller crop, good quality wines produced and better harvest than expected.
2015	Rated as the Vintage of the century. High yields and quality fruits.
2014	Later, slightly smaller and unusually cool, among wettest pre-seasons in years. Seemingly lighter, less powerful wines; potential for fine concentration and elegance if picked judiciously.
2013	Biggest crop to date, moderate conditions yielded good to very good reds and whites, lighter alcohol levels
2012	Unusually dry, hot January strained unirrigated vineyards; otherwise good to very good vintage for both reds and whites with lighter alcohol levels.
2011	Yet more variable than the last, impossible to generalise. As in 2010, producers track record should guide the buying and cellaring decision.
2010	A real test of the winegrowers savvy, and one of the toughest recent harvests to call. Be guided by producers track record.
2009	Perhaps one of the greatest vintages. Late, gruelling, but whites and reds both stellar.
2008	Long, wet, late and challenging but also unusually cool, favouring elegance in both reds and whites.
2007	Elegant, structured whites, smaller red-grape berries gave intense colour and fruit concentration.
2006	Perhaps the best white wine vintage in a decade - particularly expressive Sauvignon and Chenin. Fleshy, mild-tannined reds, with lower alcohols.
2005	Particularly challenging. Concentrated if alcoholic reds, mostly average whites, some exceptions.
2004	Cooler dry conditions yielded elegant, often age worthy wines with lower alcohols, softer tannins.
2003	Outstanding, especially for reds - concentrated and structured, and often slow to show their best.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SUPPLIED WITH EACH WINE

Vintage year	The actual year of harvesting is indicated next to the name of the wine. Non Vintage means that the wine is a combination of harvests
Character	To assist selection, each wine has a character that will highlight the style of the wine: ie, dry.
Description	An overview of the wine and it's characteristics that define the tasting experience.



ILLUSTRATED SOUTH AFRICAN WINE REGIONS

WINEGROWING AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA

WESTERN CAPE

COASTAL REGION

Districts:

- SWARTLAND
- STELLENBOSCH
- TYGERBERG
- CAPE PENINSULA
- CONSTANTIA (Ward)
- TULBAGH
- PAARL
- FRANSCHHOEK VALLEY
- DARLING
- WELLINGTON

KLEIN KAROO

Districts:

- CALITZDORP
- LANGEBERG-GARCIA

CAPE SOUTH COAST

Districts:

- OVERBERG
- WALKER BAY
- SWELLENDAM
- CAPE AGULHAS
- PLETTENBERG BAY
- ELGIN

OLIFANTS RIVER

Districts:

- LUTZVILLE VALLEY
- CITRUSDAL VALLEY
- CITRUSDAL MOUNTAIN

BREEDE RIVER VALLEY

Districts:

- BREEDEKLOOF
- WORCESTER
- ROBERTSON

WARDS NOT PART OF A REGION

- CERES
- CEDERBERG
- PRINCE ALBERT VALLEY
- SWARTBERG
- LAMBERTS BAY

NORTHERN CAPE

- CENTRAL ORANGE RIVER (Ward)



www.wosa.co.za
www.varietyisinournature.com



GOURMET TASTINGS

We also offer gourmet wine tastings, where our chef will create an exquisite 4-8 course dinner whereby each course will complement a carefully chosen wine. In addition, we also conduct Whisky and Gourmet Food Pairings.

NOTES

Vintage Changes

Please note that vintage changes may render a particular wine unavailable which is out of our control. There will however, always be a comparable wine offered.

Corkage

Corkage is available at a cost of R45.00 per bottle (750ml) and R60.00 for Magnums or larger.

Note that a maximum of two bottles is permitted, thereafter a surcharge of R60.00 will be applied per bottle.





Our Inclusive Wine List

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SHERRY

Monis Pale Dry

Is a classic fine type Sherry. Dry, aromatic and refreshing. It is best when served slightly chilled.

Monis Medium Cream

Produced in a solera, this medium cream Sherry is mellow and smooth with an elusive underlying sweetness which make it a superb accompaniment to Hors d'oeuvres and Soup.

Monis Full Cream

Fully ripened grapes endow this glowing mature Sherry with a smooth rich character. It is an ideal companion to Cheese and Nuts.

SPARKLING WINE

Leopard's Leap Sparkling Chardonnay Pinot Noir ***(*)

Elegant and well rounded with the perfect balance between freshness and fruit

Region: Franschoek Cellarmaster: Eugene Van Zyl

WHITE WINES

Jordan Chameleon Sauvignon Blanc/Chardonnay 2018 ***

Ripe Cape green fig Sauvignon Blanc and zesty, citrus-melon unoaked Chardonnay, balanced by a long creamy finish.

Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters : Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson

Leopard's Leap Semi Sweet 2018 **(*)

Fruity melon and pineapple, lusciously sweet.

Region: Franschoek Cellarmaster: Eugene Van Zyl

ROSÉ

Jordan Chameleon Rosé 2019 ***(*)

Plummy Merlot combined with summer-berry flavours of Shiraz add complexity to this dry fruity rosé.

Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters: Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson

RED WINES

Jordan Chameleon Cabernet/Merlot 2015 ***

Rich, plummy Merlot complements the minty, blackcurrant flavours of Cabernet Sauvignon. The peppery, dark berry fruit of the Shiraz adds a spicy complexity to the blend.

Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters: Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson

Leopard's Leap Dry Red 2018 **

This wine blends a combination of flavours: blueberry from the Cabernet Sauvignon, a spicy white peppery flavour from the Shiraz, and red berry from the Cinsaut.

Region: Franschoek Cellar master: Eugene van Zyl

PORT

Allesverloren Fine Old Vintage

A South African stalwart, youthful sweet flavours of ripe fruit, mocha and vanilla. Velvety.

Region: Riebeek West Cellarmaster: Danie Malan





Our Exclusive Wine List

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APERITIF


Enjoy an Aperitif whilst you choose your meal and accompanying wine

Pierre Jourdan Ratafia	27
<i>Chardonnay fortified with potstill Brandy made on the Estate, Haute Cabrière. Legendary winemaker of classic 'Champagne style' wines, Achim Von Arnim.</i>	

CHAMPAGNE

Dom Perignon	750 ml	3800
<i>W.O. Haute Villiers, since 1668. An intense, vibrant, tactile yet mature, complex, and sensual champagne - Delicious!</i>		
Region : Champagne (Epernay), France Cellarmaster: Richard Geoffroy		
Moët & Chandon Rosé	750 ml	1300
<i>W.O. Epernay. Intense and aromatic blend of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay.</i>		
Region: Champagne (Epernay), France Cellarmaster: Benoit Gouez		
Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label	750 ml	1450
<i>Golden-yellow, with a foaming necklace of tiny bubbles. Aroma's of white fruits and raisins, then of vanilla and later of brioche.</i>		
Region: Champagne (Reims), France Cellarmaster: Dominique Demarville		
Moët & Chandon NV Brut Imperial	750 ml	1250
<i>W.O. Epernay. Fine and elegant with a delicious biscuity aroma and flavour.</i>		
Region: Champagne (Reims), France Cellarmaster: Benoit Gouez		

PROSECCO

Sartori Prosecco Brut 	290
<i>Straw yellow in colour with light green hues; delicate fruit bouquet, reminiscent of wild apples and acacia flowers.</i>	
<i>Dry with subtle fruit and nut flavour.</i>	
Region: Trevisio Winemaker: Andrea Sartori	

MCC

Graham Beck Brut ****	750 ml	330
<i>Classic Méthode Cap Classique, complexity of flavours, fine bubbles and a brilliant crisp finish.</i>		
Region: Robertson Winemaker: Peter Ferreira	375 ml	180
Pongrácz Method Cap Classique	750 ml	300
<i>Yellow stone fruit aromas stimulating citric notes.</i>		
Region: Stellenbosch Winemaker: Elunda Basson		



DESSERT WINE

Beaumont Goute d'Or ****

50 ml (glass) 60

An irresistible combination of honeyed Semillon, dusty botrytis and Sauvignon's refreshing elements.

Region: Bot Rivier Winemaker: Sebastian Beaumont

WHITE WINES SAUVIGNON BLANC

Cederberg Ghost Corner Wild Ferment 2017 ****(*)

440

Creamy, full palate with beautiful length enhanced with aromas of fleshy white pear & quince

Region: Cederberg/Elm Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt

Shannon Sanctuary Peak Sauvignon Blanc ****(*)

255

Primary fruit aromas of asparagus, citrus, and some capsicum in a minerally and flinty style

Region: Elgin Winemaker: Gordan & Nadia Newton Johnson

Jordan The Cold Fact Sauvignon Blanc 2018 ****

225

Vigorous gooseberry/grassy scents. Steely, brisk medium-bodied, excellent flavour, long, dry finish.

Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters: Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson

Fortes Sauvignon Blanc (wooded) 2017

380

A serious blanc Fume style Sauvignon Blanc. Lightly matured in small oak casks. This wine is fresh and complex offering subtle lemon grass & fig flavours with a wonderful smoky mineral finish.

Region: Napier Winemaker: Conrad Vlok

CHARDONNAY

Springfield Wild Yeast Chardonnay (unwooded) 2018 ****

275

Creamily rich texture, ripe tropical flavours simply fold into the mouth with stunning concentration.

Region: Robertson Winemaker: Abrie Bruwer

Thelema Sutherland Chardonnay 2017 ****

250

Marmalade fruit and complex yeasty flavours in a nice harmony with toasty oak

Region: Elgin Winemakers: Rudi Schultz & Duncan Clarke

CHENIN BLANC

Cederberg Five Generations Chenin Blanc 2017 ****(*)

480

Delicate aromas of honey, lime zest, roasted nuts and peaches laced with sweet vanilla undertones from the oak.

Region: Cederberg/Elm Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt

Vrede en Lust Kogelberg Chenin 2013

250

Full-bodied wine with tropical fruit character of Chenin. Palate is rich with hints of honey and ripe fruit.

Region: Paarl Winemaker: Susan Erasmus

Beaumont Hope Maguerite Chenin Blanc (Wooded) 2017 *****

620

The nose shows hints of lime, pear, white peach and even some guava. The palate is pure and fresh with a pithy finish – it's water-like now in its clarity and drinkability but should only gain in complexity with time in the bottle.

Region: Bot River Winemaker: Sebastian Beaumont



WHITE BLENDS

DeMorgenzon Maestro White 2016 *****	450
<i>Combination of concentrated orange and yellow stone fruits, with hints of spice, zesty citrus and blossoms. The palate is full, textured and very nuanced with a lingering herbal savoury finish.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemakers: Carl van der Merwe & Hanneke Botha	
Cederberg Ghost Corner The Bowline 2015 *****	440
<i>Sailors call the bowline the 'king of knots'. Ripe asparagus notes from the Sauvignon blanc complement the green fig and dusty elements from the Semillon.</i>	
Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	
Vondelling Babiana 2013 ****(*)	350
<i>A complex nose of soft fruit and spicy richness. Understated at first, the wine then opens up beautifully to expose sweet wild honey, peach blossoms, pineapple and toasted cashew nuts. Rose petals and white pepper are softened by honeyed pears.</i>	
Region: Paarl Winemakers: Matthew Copeland & Emile van der Merwe	

ROSÉ

Elgin Rosé 2015 ***	235
<i>From Merlot charms with red-berry character, juicy vibrant dry farewell.</i>	
Region: Elgin Cellarmasters/Winemakers: Kevin Grant, Gavin Patterson, Jeff Grier, Nico Grobler, Martin Meinert, Niels Verburg, Joris van Almenkerk	
Cederberg Sustainable Rosé 2018 ***(*) (Organically grown)	140
<i>Fleshy raspberry notes, nice grip, light and dry enough.</i>	
Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	

OTHER WHITE VARIETALS

Elgin Viognier 2013 ***	275
<i>Outstanding, lovely taste and nose, gentle and seductive on the palate. Fabulous.</i>	
Region: Elgin Cellarmasters/Winemakers: Kevin Grant, Gavin Patterson, Nico Grobler, Martin Meinert, Niels Verburg, Joris van Almenkerk	
Leeuwenkuil Marsanne 2014 *****	230
<i>Ripe tropical fruit and hints of vanilla. Good acidity helps the lingering mineral aftertaste.</i>	
Region: Swartland Cellarmaster: Pieter Carstens	
Cederberg Bukettraube 2018 ***(*)	190
<i>An explosion of aroma and flavour. Prominent Muscat flavours with apricot and floral notes on the nose. A well-balanced wine with a delicate sweetness and a crisp acidity.</i>	
Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	
Thelema Rhine Riesling 2014 ***(*)	160
<i>Spicy lime aroma, crisp dry finish with lasting flavours of ripe melon, fig & lemon on the palate.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemakers: Rudi Schultz & Duncan Clarke	



RED WINES

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Five Generations Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 ****(*)	1100
<i>The 18 months of maturation in new French oak has intensified the rich aromas of blackcurrant and cassis, layered with decadent dark chocolate and cherry tobacco.</i>	
Region: Cederberg/Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	
Thelema Cabernet Sauvignon 2015 ****(*)	460
<i>Complex and stylish, with aromas of ripe blackcurrant, dark chocolate and pencil shavings. This wine is bone dry, yet exhibits a lovely sweet fruit character on the palate, with a lovely long finish.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmaster: Gyles Webb Winemaker: Rudi Schultz	
Jordan The Long Fuse Cabernet Sauvignon 2014 ****(*)	360
<i>Deep ruby colour, huge mouth filling flavours of blackberry, cassis and vanilla. French Oak barrels add a complex toastiness.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmasters: Gary & Kathy Jordan with Tjaak Nelson	

PINOTAGE

Wildeckrans Pinotage Barrel Selection 2015 ****(*)	720
<i>Full bodied yet smoothly structured. Toasty oak and sweetish finish detract from pretty raspberry undertones.</i>	
Region: Bot River Winemaker: William Wilkinson	
Southern Right Pinotage 2018 ****	540
<i>intense classically styled, clay-grown wine, packed with complex berry fruit, beautiful tannins and subtle wood spice. Full ripeness and the longer hang-time afforded by cooler sites.</i>	
Region: Hermanus Winemaker: Emul Ross	
Mellusat Sigma White Pinotage 2017 ****	250
<i>The world's first White Pinotage. Making white wine from red grapes using South Africa's unique Pinotage grape. Barrel fermented and matured for eleven months with lees stirring gives this wine a slightly creamy, nutty character to balance the tropical fruit and banana flavours.</i>	
Region: Paarl Winemakers: Faizel Samuels & Gizelle Coetzee	

SHIRAZ

The Bernard Series Basket Press Syrah 2015 ****(*)	560
<i>Packed with cracked black and white pepper spice, hints of rich chocolate, mocca and generous mulberry fruit.</i>	
Region: Franschhoek Winemaker: Richard Duckitt	
De Grendel Shiraz 2017 ****(*)	370
<i>This Shiraz shows coriander, lavender, white pepper and some floral notes.</i>	
Region: Durbanville Winemaker: Elzette de Preez	
Vondeling Erica Shiraz 2011	260
<i>The palate is medium-bodied with fleshy ripe red berry fruit that is missing some complexity and finesse towards the finish</i>	
Region: Paarl Winemakers: Matthew Copeland & Emile van der Merwe	



MERLOT

Meerlust Merlot 2015 ****(*)	620
<i>Savoury and elegant, lifted with 14% cab. 19 months French oak.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellar master: Chris Williams	
Vergelegen Merlot 2013 ****(*)	460
<i>Ripe fruit flavours, black cherries, plum, spice and a touch of chocolate.</i>	
Region: Somerset West Winemaker: André van Rensburg	
Meinert Merlot 2014 ***(*)	330
<i>Intense mix of ripe black cherry, mineral and chocolate aromas. Soft and rich on the palate with a firm, long finish.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemaker: Brendan Butler	

OTHER RED VARIETALS

Neil Ellis Piekenierskloof Vineyard Selection Grenache 2011 ****(*)	630
<i>Alluringly fragrant & expressive. Composed yet intense, shows real presence. Lovely fruity purity woven into silky & seamless structure.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemaker: Warren Ellis	
Cederberg Ghost Corner Pinot Noir 2017 ****(*)	440
<i>Prominent red fruit of ripe cherries and sweet raspberries with an undertone of earthy, mushroom nuances.</i>	
Region: Elim Winemaker: David Nieuwoudt	
Zorgvliet Petit Verdot 2015 ****	265
<i>Spicy red cherry appeal.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Winemakers: Bernard le Roux & Ruben Adams	
Leeuwenkuil Cinsault 2014 ***(*)	220
<i>An elegant and velvet wine good colour and concentration for Cinsault. Red berries and cherries, savoury black olives and black spices.</i>	
Region: Swartland Cellarmaster: Pieter Carstens	



RED BLENDS

Kanonkop Paul Sauer 2015 *****	1900
<i>Complex and decadent nose – red and black fruit, violets, incense, earth, vanilla, cinnamon and other oak spice. The palate is rich and broad but very well balanced – succulent fruit and nicely grippy tannins. The first wine in South Africa to be awarded 100 points by Tim Atkinson.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmaster: Abrie Beeslaar	
Meerlust Rubicon 2015 ****(*)	850
<i>From the Director's Cellar. Cassis & graphite whiffs, plush yet lithe and restrained, with good grip from 69 % cab with merlot and cab franc.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmaster: Chris Williams	
Buitenverwachting Christine 2013 ****(*)	820
<i>From the Director's Cellar. Merlot, cab franc and malbec, offers rich deep cassis & cherry fruit. Spicy cedar minerals. A touch leaner than previous, but nicely zesty.</i>	
Region: Constantia Winemaker: Brad Paton with Stephan Steyn	
The Bernard Series Small Barrel SMV 2014 ****(*)	760
<i>Packed with cracked black and white pepper spice, hints of rich chocolate, mocha and generous mulberry fruit.</i>	
Region: Franschhoek Winemaker: Richard Duckitt	
Rustenberg John X Merriman 2015 ****(*)	380
<i>Glossy high-toned ripeness presently accompanied by persistent grip.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellarmaster: Murray Barlow	
Ataraxia Serenity 2012 ****	340
<i>Finely scented vibrant nose with beautifully lifted dark berry fruit and intriguing mineral and spicy notes.</i>	
Region: Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge Winemaker: Kevin Grant	

DESSERT WINES

Ken Forrester 'T' Noble Late Harvest 2014 ****	480
<i>Ken named this noble beverage in honour of his wife, Theresa, known to her friends and family as "T", for the first time in '99, as a gift to her. This rich wine is the product of old Chenin Blanc vines with glazed peach, ginger and orange zest and creamed pear notes.</i>	
Region: Stellenbosch Cellar master: Ken Forrester	
Tierhoek Straw Wine NV ****(*)	(375ml) 445
<i>An unctuous wine of immense flavours of dried apricots and honey.</i>	
<i>Wonderful clean finish on the palate with fine balance of sweetness and fresh natural fruit acidity</i>	
Region: Citrusdal Cellarmaster: Roger Burton	
Beaumont Pinotage 2015 ****	(375ml) 420
<i>A delicious mouthful. Pure fresh raspberries and red currants.</i>	
Region: Elgin Winemaker: Sebastian Beaumont	



Wine Terms & Wine Lingo

Learning some wine terminology is often the first step to increasing your wine knowledge. Use our list below to help you along as you encounter new wine lingo.

ACIDS

Acids give wine tartness. Several acids are in the grape before fermentation, and others arise afterward. Acids often make a wine seem “crisp” or “refreshing.”

AFTERTASTE

A tasting term for the taste left on the palate after wine has been swallowed. “Finish” is a synonym.

ALCOHOL

Generally refers to ethanol, a chemical compound found in alcoholic beverages. It is also commonly used to refer to alcoholic beverages in general.

APPELLATION OF ORIGIN

You might see this phrase on a wine label. It denotes the place where most of the grapes used in the wine were grown. An appellation of origin can be the name of a country, state, county or geographic region. Federal regulations require that at least 75 percent of the grapes must be grown in the named appellation of origin.

AROMA

The smell of a wine. The term is generally applied to younger wines, while the term Bouquet is reserved for more aged wines.

ASTRINGENCY

The degree of astringency (how much a wine makes your mouth pucker) depends upon the amount of tannin a wine has absorbed from the skins and seeds of the grapes. A moderate amount of astringency is desirable-it creates a lovely flavor-in many red wine types.

BALANCE

A wine has balance when its elements are harmonious; when no one part dominates. Acid should balance against sweetness; fruit should balance against oak and tannin; alcohol balances against acid and flavor.

BARREL

A hollow cylindrical container, traditionally made of wood staves, used for fermenting and aging wine. Sometimes called a cask.

BAUMÉ

A measure of the sugar concentration in the juice or wine.

BLENDING

The mixing of two or more different parcels of wine together by winemakers to produce a consistent finished wine that is ready for bottling. Laws generally dictate what wines can be blended together, and what is subsequently printed on the wine label.

BLIND TASTING

Tasting and evaluating wine without knowing what it is.



BOTRYTIS CINEREA

See Noble rot.

BOTTLE SHOCK

Also known as bottle-sickness, a temporary condition of wine characterized by muted or disjointed fruit flavors. It often occurs immediately after bottling or when wines (usually fragile wines) are shaken in travel. After several days the condition usually disappears.

BODY

It's all about how thin or thick the wine feels in your mouth. "Light body" connotes a thin feeling in your mouth. "Medium body" means that a wine is full-flavored, without being too heavy. "Heavy body" means the wine has a robust, round, and very rich feel.

BOUQUET

Smells that result from a wine's aging process. Bouquet can also describe a wine's overall smell.

BRIX

A standardized scale to measure the sugar content in grapes before fermentation. Most table wines are harvested between 19 degrees and 25 degrees Brix.

BRUT

A French term for a very dry champagne or sparkling wine. Drier than extra dry.

BUNG

A stopper used to seal a bottle or barrel. Commonly used term for corks.

CARBONIC MACERATION

A winemaking practice of fermenting whole grapes that have not been crushed.

CELLAR

A storehouse or storeroom used specifically for holding wine. Long ago, wine was best kept in underground cellars. Modern methods of insulation and temperature control have transformed the job of storing wine, making it possible for wine "cellars" to be above ground as well. Wine is best stored horizontally in a dark place with minimal temperature fluctuation. The optimal temperature for storing most wines is between 45°F and 65°F. Check out Serving and Storage for more details.

CELLARING

To age wine for the purpose of improvement or storage. Cellaring may occur in any area which is cool (12-15°C), dark, free from drastic temperature change, and free from vibrations. Bottled wines are typically cellared on their sides.

CHAPTALIZATION

A winemaking process where sugar is added to the must to increase the alcohol content in the fermented wine. This is often done when grapes have not ripened adequately.

CHARMAT PROCESS

The Charmat or bulk process is a method where sparkling wines receive their secondary fermentation in large tanks, rather than individual bottles as seen in Méthode champenoise.

CLARIFICATION

A winemaking process involving the fining and filtration of wine to remove suspended solids and reduce turbidity.



CORKED

A tasting term for a wine that has cork taint.

CRÉMANT

French sparkling wine not made in Champagne region.

CRUST

Sediment, generally potassium bitartrate, which adheres to the inside of a wine bottle.

CUVE

A large vat used for fermentation.

CUVÉE

A wine blended from several vats or batches, or from a selected vat. Also used in Champagne to denote the juice from the first pressing of a batch of grapes.

DECANTING

The process of pouring wine from its bottle into a decanter to separate the sediment from the wine.

DÉGORGEMENT

The disgorging or removal of sediment from bottles that results from secondary fermentation.

DEVATting

The process of separating red must from pomace, which can happen before or after fermentation.

DOUX

The French word for sweet. Usually refers to the sweetest category of sparkling wines.

DRY

Wines with zero or very low levels of residual sugar. The opposite of sweet, except in sparkling wines, where dry means sweet.

EXTRACT

Everything in a wine except for water, sugar, alcohol, and acidity, the term refers to the solid compounds such as tannins. High levels of extract results in more color and body, which may be increased by prolonging the wine's contact with the skins during Cuvaion.

FERMENTATION

This is the way in which grape sugar is converted to ethyl alcohol and carbon dioxide, thereby converting grape juice into wine.

FINING

A clarification process where flocculants, such as bentonite or egg white, are added to the wine to remove suspended solids.



FINISH

The finish is the overall taste that remains in your mouth after you've swallowed the wine; it's the length and pleasantness of the aftertaste. A well-balanced, full-bodied wine usually has a long finish, while a well-balanced, light-bodied wine has a shorter finish.

FLABBY

Tasting term used to indicate a wine lacking in structure, often marked by low acidity.

FORTIFIED WINE

Wine to which alcohol has been added, generally to increase the concentration to a high enough level to prevent fermentation.

FREE RUN

Juice obtained from grapes that have not been pressed.

HARD

A tasting term for a wine that contains too much tannin and is therefore unpleasant. Hard wines often take a long time to mature.

LATE HARVEST WINE

Also known as late picked, wine made from grapes that have been left on the vine longer than usual. Usually an indicator for a very sweet or dessert wine.

LEES

Wine sediment that occurs during and after fermentation, and consists of dead yeast, grape seeds, and other solids. Wine is separated from the lees by racking.

LEGS

You've seen them-the drops of wine that creep down the side of the wine glass. A higher alcohol content means thinner legs flow back into the wine after you swirl the glass.

LOOK

A tasting term for the casual sensory evaluation of a wine.

MACERATION

The contact of grape skins with the must during fermentation, extracting phenolic compounds including tannins, anthocyanins, and aroma. See also Cuvaion.

MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION

Also called "secondary fermentation." The sharp malic acid in wine converts to lactic acid and carbon dioxide, thereby decreasing tartness and creating buttery aromas.

MICRO OXYGENATION

The controlled exposure of wine to small amounts of oxygen in the attempt to reduce the length of time required for maturation.

MIDPALATE

A tasting term for the feel and taste of a wine when held in the mouth.



MOUTHFEEL

The various sensations – thick or thin, round or lean – a wine can create while in the mouth.

NOBLE ROT

Another name for the Botrytis cinerea mould that can pierce grape skins causing dehydration. The resulting grapes produce a highly prized sweet wine, generally dessert wine.

NOSE

Many wine lovers prefer to say nose, but what they actually mean is the smell or aroma of the wine. The nose of a wine is best sensed by smell just after you swirl the wine in your glass. Check out How to Taste Wine to learn more about the classical process of wine tasting.

OFF-DRY

A wine that has the barest hint of sweetness; a slightly sweet wine in which the residual sugar is barely perceptible.

OLD VINE

Wine produced from vines that are notably old.

PALATE

A tasting term for the feel and taste of a wine in the mouth.

PH

A measure of the acidity. The lower the pH, the higher the acidity. The term comes from the French Pouvoir Hydrogène meaning “hydrogen power”. pH is a shorthand for its mathematical approximation: in chemistry a small p is used in place of writing log10 and the H here represents [H+], the concentration of hydrogen ions.

PHYLLOXERA

Underground insect that kills grape vines by attacking their roots.

PLONK

British English slang for an inexpensive bottle of wine. The term is thought to originate from the French word for white wine, “blanc”.

POMACE

The skins, stalks, and pips (seeds) that remain after making wine. Also called marc.

POTASSIUM SORBATE

A wine stabilizer and preservative.

PROOF

Refers to the alcohol content of a beverage. In the United States, proof represents twice the alcohol content as a percentage of volume. Thus, a 100 proof beverage is 50% alcohol by volume and a 150 proof beverage is 75% alcohol. In the Imperial system, proof, (or 100% proof), equals 57.06% ethanol by volume, or 48.24% by weight. Absolute or pure ethanol is 75.25 over proof, or 175.25 proof.

RACKING

The process of drawing wine off the sediment, such as lees, after fermentation and moving it into another vessel.



RESERVE

A term given to wine to indicate that it is of higher quality than usual.

RESIDUAL SUGAR

Often referred to as RS, it is a measure of the amount of sugar remaining in the wine after fermentation stops. RS is usually measured in grams of sugar per liter or milliliter of wine, and it indicates how sweet or dry a wine is.

REVERSE OSMOSIS

A process used to remove excess water from wine.

RIDDLING

Also known as “Rémuage” in French, part of the Méthode Champenoise process whereby bottles of sparkling wine are successively turned and gradually tilted upside down so that sediment settles into the necks of the bottles in preparation for degorgement.

SCREWCAP

An alternative to cork for sealing wine bottles, comprising a metal cap that screws onto threads on the neck of a bottle. Also called a “Stelvin”.

SEC

French for dry, except in the case of Champagne, where it means semi-sweet.

SECONDARY FERMENTATION

Most commonly the term is used to refer to the continuation of fermentation in a second vessel - e.g. moving the wine from a stainless steel tank to an oak barrel.

SOMMELIER

(So-mel-YAY) The French word for wine steward. Many fine restaurants have a Sommelier to assist guests in choosing a wine from the menu.

SULFITES

Compounds (typically: potassium metabisulfite or sodium metabisulfite) which are added to wine to prevent oxidation, microbial spoilage, and further fermentation by the yeast.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE

A substance used in winemaking as a preservative.

TANNINS

Naturally occurring substances found mostly in grape skins, seeds and stems. They can give young wines a mouth-puckering bitterness and astringency, but some tannins are desirable in red wines to give them structure.

TERROIR

French for “soil”, the physical and geographical characteristics of a particular vineyard site that give the resultant wine its unique properties.

TEXTURE

A tasting term for the mouthfeel of wine on the palate.



TRANSPARENCY

The ability of a wine to clearly portray all unique aspects of its flavor--fruit, floral, and mineral notes. The opposite would be a wine where flavors are diffused and thoroughly integrated.

UNOAKED

Also known as unwooded, refers to wines that have been matured without contact with wood/oak such as in aging barrels.

VARIETAL

The varieties of grape from which the wine was made. You might be familiar with many of these: Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Shiraz.

VINICULTURE

The art and science of making wine. Also called enology (or oenology). Not to be confused with viticulture.

VINTAGE

The year in which the grapes used to make the wine were harvested.

VITICULTURE

The cultivation of grapes. Not to be confused with viniculture.

VOLATILE ACIDITY

The level of acetic acid present within a wine.

WINE-PRESS

A device, comprising two vats or receptacles, one for trodding and bruising grapes, and the other for collecting the juice.

YEAST

A microscopic unicellular fungi responsible for the conversion of sugars in must to alcohol. This process is known as alcoholic fermentation.

YOUNG

Wine that is not matured and usually bottled and sold within a year of its vintage.

ZYMOLOGY

The science of fermentation.

