



Chris Alheit, Alheit Vineyards

Handford Wines South Africa 2023 Pre-Release Offer

Contents

South Africa 2023.....	3
Introduction.....	3
South Africa 2023 Vintage Report.....	3
How the Offer Works	3
The Wines	4
Alheit Vineyards, Walker Bay.....	4
Adi Badenhorst, Swartland.....	5
Crystallum, Walker Bay	6
David & Nadia, Swartland.....	7
Lismore Estate, Greyton.....	9
Lukas Van Loggerenberg.....	10
Minimalist Wines - Sam Lambson.....	11
Eben Sadie, Swartland.....	12
Sakkie Mouton	13
Duncan Savage, Cape Town.....	14
Storm Wines, Hemel-en-Aarde	15
Tesselaarsdal, Walker Bay.....	16
Tembela Wines.....	17

South Africa 2023

Introduction

A selection from our most sought-after wines from this outstanding vintage is offered at early bird prices. Most wines are being shipped now to arrive before Spring 2025. This offer will close on Friday 11th November, though most of the wines are listed here because they tend to sell on release. Prices are quoted per 6 bottles in bond.

This is an eclectic mix of the wine that we consider to be the best and most exciting. The Cape offers a cosmic array of styles, even within a tight range of varieties. This is the best of the best.

South Africa 2023 Vintage Report

This is a vintage of smaller quantities but great quality – and also a tale of two halves. The growing season will be remembered for the dry and rather warm winter and the generally good growing conditions. At the same time, many will remember the ripening period being cool and damp. The grapes ripened optimally at a slower pace. Smaller berries, created by the dry conditions resulted in excellent flavour and colour profiles.

Compared to other vintages, the 2023 harvest is comparable other cool and high quality vintages. In 2023, the quantity was 14.2% below the previous year, but the quality is above average in most cases thanks to the cooler growing season. With a smaller harvest, excellent quality wines and a market that has turned into a seller's market, so time to snap up some fantastic wines at very decent prices.

How the Offer Works

Prices are quoted per case of 6 (unless stated) in bond (i.e. duty free) at London City Bond. Wines may be stored by us or transferred in bond. Most wines will be shipped in the spring or autumn of 2024 for onward delivery. When you choose to receive wines the duty (currently £16.03 per case of 6 for wines 11.5%-14.5% ABV) and VAT on the total value (inc. duty) must be paid prior to delivery.

Transfer under bond and delivery to the UK mainland are free for orders over £500 (in bond value). Otherwise delivery charged at £20.00 per address. Wines may be collected from 105 Old Brompton Road. Storage with us at LCB is £0.60 (VAT incl) per 6 (or part thereof) bottles of each wine/vintage per month.

Please note that some wines are on very strict allocation and you may not always receive everything you request.

The Wines

Alheit Vineyards, Walker Bay

Chris and Suzaan Alheit aim 'to vinify extraordinary Cape vineyards'. Chenin is the key varietal and fruit is selected from some of the oldest vineyard blocks in the country. Using the knowledge and contacts of leading viticulturist, Rosa Kruger, Alheit Vineyards has established itself as the most talked about winery in the Cape. Recent changes include a move towards larger vessels, including six diamond-shaped concrete tanks, plus concrete eggs and foudres.



“Alheit’s wines represent the apex of contemporary Cape winemaking, infused with character, nuance and expression of place without a sense of conformity” **Neal Martin, Vinous**

Alheit Cartology Chenin Blanc 2023

£165.00

In my opinion, this is the best Cartology vintage yet, and Chris sums it up perfectly: “The nose is remarkable, as is the palate. End of note.” The final blend of Cartology 2023 is an embarrassment of riches. It contains some Chenin Blanc that usually goes into Nautical Dawn and plenty of False Bay Chenin – some of the best fruit he’s harvested. Small amount of exceptional Semillon also made it into this blend. All these extraordinary components have produced a gem of a wine.

Chris was visibly excited when introducing it a few weeks ago. Once I tasted it, I understood why. The nose is so appealing, pretty and lifted, with bright pear, yellow fruit, some citrus, preserved lemons, and sweet herbal notes. The palate is energetic, perfectly balanced between richness and crystalline purity. This is truly complex and beautiful, a pitch-perfect offering. - **VT**

“It has one of the classiest bouquets you will find in a South African white this vintage: yellow fruit, a soupçon of peach skin, lanolin and whisked egg whites. Stunning delineation and purity. The palate is very well balanced with a bright and tensile opening. This has a killer line of acidity and is full of tension and complexity, concluding with a mineral-driven finish that has a slightly waxy/resinous texture. Very long. Very classy” **95 Points Neal Martin, Vinous**

Alheit Hereafter Here Chenin Blanc 2023

£120.00

Chris explained that the Hereafter is a little bit special this year a little more savoury and serious. The overall quality of the vintage has really elevated this wine. “The 2023 Hereafter Here has a disarmingly pure bouquet with yellow plum, candle wax and just a touch of crushed stone, all exquisitely defined and focused. The palate is very well balanced with a line of electricity that goes from start to finish. Vivid flavours unfurl in the mouth, with hints of grapefruit peel and a liberal splash of stem ginger toward the finish. This is an outstanding Hereafter Here” **93 Points Neal Martin, Vinous**

Adi Badenhorst, Swartland

Adi Badenhorst has become one of the Cape's top winemakers. One of the pioneering characters of the Swartland revolution and gained a reputation for his inquisitive mind and drive to always innovate and experiment. He has recently expanded his vineyard holding to over 200 is source for some of the Cape's best winemakers seeking top-quality fruit. Adi has become increasingly known for his limited production single vineyard wines. These wines have a remarkable spark of energy like Adi himself.



Grenache Raaigras 2023

£235.00

The 2023 Grenache Raaigras has plenty of red cherry, crushed strawberry, menthol and light rose petal scents that convey a sense of exuberance. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly sweeter fruit on the entry, but there's real structure here. It's quite sapid on the finish that lingers in the mouth. Drinking 2025-2032. **93 Points Neal Martin, Vinous**

Chenin Blanc Grensloos 2023

£175.00

The 2023 Chenin Blanc Grensloos is a new addition to the range. Grensloos translates to "without borders." This cuvée comprises several vineyards, around 30% from Jakkobsfontein on deep red gravel soils, matured in concrete and 400-liter casks. It has a beautifully defined bouquet of yellow fruit and hints of dried honey. The palate is well defined with a fine bead of acidity and touches of peach skin, quince, white pepper and fennel. Very harmonious and poised, this is a superb debut. Drinking 2024-2032. **92 Points Neal Martin, Vinous**

2023 Cinsault Ramnasgras

£175.00

The 2023 Cinsault Ramnasgras comes from a single vineyard parcel planted in the 1960s, raised in concrete vat. This is more vigorous on the nose than the Ringmuur, displaying raspberry, wild strawberry and a touch of vanilla. The palate is ripe and juicy (apparently this was the ripest fruit Adi Badenhorst picked in 2023, coming in at around 13.5% alcohol), with the small amount of Grenache lending flesh on the finish. Drinking 2025-2032. **91 Points Neal Martin, Vinous**

Crystallum, Walker Bay

CRYSTALLUM

Crystallum is a boutique operation founded in 2007 by brothers Peter-Allan and Andrew Finlayson. They are the sons of South Africa's Pinot Noir and Chardonnay pioneer, Peter Finlayson. Vines grow in the cool Walker Bay region, on South Africa's south coast around the town of Hermanus in the Hemel en Aarde valley.

The brothers' focus on sustainability runs from the vineyard through to the winery. A new straw bale winery is being built using recycled steel, clay and stone from the property and bales from a farm just nearby. They have used recycled paper and clay mix for plastering the walls, creating an entirely natural wall that should provide a constant, cool and naturally regulated environment for the wines.

Crystallum Ferrum Chardonnay 2023 **£165.00**

The 2023 Ferrum comes from Peter-Allen Finlayson's own property at the top of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley and was aged in around 20% new oak. It has a very satisfying bouquet with lemon thyme, Golden Delicious and light earthy scents. The palate is fresh and sapid on the entry. Moderate in weight, clean and crisp, it concludes with an almost Chenin-like finish! Drinking 2024-2032. **Neal Martin, Vinous**

Crystallum Clay Shales Chardonnay 2023 **£165.00**

The 2023 Clay Shales comes from high-density plantings of Chardonnay close to Creation. Matured in around 25% new oak, this has a fresh and vibrant bouquet with just a touch of reduction that works to its benefit. The palate is very well balanced with an oaky entry and fine acidity. Drinking 2024-2032.

Neal Martin, Vinous

Crystallum Wines Peter Max Pinot Noir 2023 **£125.00**

The flagship of the range and great value for such complexity. Peter and Max are the Christian names of the grape growers. They will be proud to hear that these are of 1er Cru quality. The wines are 50% whole bunch fermented, with gentle extraction the key. Red cherries, cranberry, rose and lavender lead the way aromatically with a little sumac. The palate is dense and focused, with a tartness from sour cherry and rhubarb balanced by riper notes from mulberry and black cherry. Absolutely delicious Drinking 2024-2029. **Neal Martin, Vinous**

Crystallum Wines Cuvee Cinema Pinot 2023 **£195.00**

Picked before the rains, the 2023 Cuvée Cinema comes from the same parcel as the Clay Shales Chardonnay with high-density planting. It includes around 25% whole bunches and was matured in 20% new oak. Often one of Crystallum's strongest cards in the pack, this has a wonderful cranberry- and wild-strawberry-scented nose, with briar and light sous-bois scents percolating through with time. The palate is medium-bodied with a fine, sturdy backbone, but the tannins are finely tuned with a pure, lingering, savoury finish. **Neal Martin, Vinous**

David & Nadia, Swartland

David & Nadia are one of Swartland's most respected producers. This is Family owned and a small scale operation, the focus is terroir driven getting incredible results from old and dry land bush vine vineyards Farmed in a low intervention way and this hands off and often subtle approach following in the winery. These beautiful and textural wines have quite a following.



David & Nadia Aristargos White Blend, 2023

£129.00

51% Chenin Blanc, 11% Semillon, 6% Verdelho, 6% Clairette Blanche, 8% Roussanne, 2% Grenache Blanc, 6% Marsanne, 10% Colombard and 2% Viognier. The 2023 has more salinity and twist of refreshing bitterness than usual.

“This is a beautifully judged assemblage from David and Nadia Sadie. Curated in neutral oak, with subtle bitterness from partial skin contact, it has enticing layers of passion fruit, pear and lemongrass and a stony, slightly salty finish” Drinking 2024-2029. **94 Points Tim Atkin**

David & Nadia Chenin Blanc 2023

£129.00

The main Chenin Blanc is formed from eight vineyards, planted from 1968 to 1986. The wine is based on granite soils from the Paardeberg, blended with shale/schist from the east, clay rich soils from the north and iron rich soils from the western parts of the region. The grapes were whole bunch pressed, naturally fermented and matured for 11 months in neutral 300L French oak barrels. 25% of the blend was aged in concrete. Old Vine Project certified. “Our bread and butter” is how David Sadie describes this old-vine Chenin Blanc. Earthy, stony, layered and refreshing, it offers scents of fennel and lanolin and a palate of citrus, green apple, leesy complexity and a palate-cleansing finish. Drinking 2024-2030. **93 Points Tim Atkin**

David & Nadia Grenache Noir

£129.00

Four different vineyards on iron, granite, schist and clay soils, supply the fruit for this impressive Swartland Grenache. Fermented with 60% whole bunches followed by a further month on skins, this is deceptively light and ethereal, with redcurrant, strawberry and pomegranate flavours, fine-boned tannins and a mineral core. Drinking 2024-2029. **93 Points Tim Atkin**

Rondevlei Chenin Blanc 2023

£354.00

Rondevlei is a 1.7-hectare parcel on red sandy soils, located in the grain and Corn Belt of Malmesbury West, close to the Swartland border with Darling. Perfumed, focused and showing a slight maritime influence, this has notes of iron and wet earth, layers of orange zest and green apple, textured lees and a savoury undertone. More brilliance from a very talented couple. Drinking 2025-2031. **96 Points Tim Atkin**

Hoe Steen Chenin Blanc 2023

£354.00

Hoe-Steen this year is a wine of sinew and bristling, crisp golden fruit going in to nut kernels and salts with good levels of invigorating acidity. David opted for an early picked style in 2023 and it works! Very smart and polished with real cut. With 2021, this is probably the most incisive Hoe-Steen to date. The Chenin that arguably made their name, Hoë-Steen (meaning High-Chenin) is an old vineyard planted in 1968 just west of Malmesbury towards Darling. The soils are deep, red iron clay. South facing, it is late ripening and benefits from constant winds which have contributed to the gnarly shape of the vines. Old Vine Project certified. Only 2,000 bottles are produced. Drinking 2025-2030. **96 Points Tim Atkin**

Skaliekop Chenin Blanc 2023

£354.00

Beautifully composed, it is succulent and dry and mineral with finessed air about it. The Skaliekop (Shale-Hill) vines were planted in 1985 in very shallow shale soils in the Paardeberg, an anomaly in this granite-rich region. A small tractor road divides the Plat'bos and Skaliekop vineyards. The wines of the different pickings were aged separately, before blending and then bottling at the end of the year.

“This is salty, saline and refreshing, all oyster shell, pink grapefruit and petrichor, plenty of extract and intensity and a leesy mid palate. Drinking 2025-2035. **97 Points Tim Atkin**

Plat'Bos Chenin Blanc 2023

£354.00

The 2023 shows bristling focus and austerity. The Plat'bos Chenin (Low-Bush) is the most linear, acid-driven wine of the single vineyards and the site remains an important component in both the regular Chenin Blanc and Aristargos blend. Situated next to the Skaliekop vineyard but in pure, decomposed granite. Planted in 1981, it is Old Vine Project certified.

“This is a world-class expression of Chenin on granite soils, with mouth-watering acidity, steely precision and focus, wet stone, lime and lemongrass flavours and a taut, lingering finish” Drinking 2025-2035. **98 Points Tim Atkin**

Lismore Estate, Greyton

Californian Samantha O'Keefe has found paradise and the perfect terroir at the foot of the dramatic Overberg mountain range. Planted at 300 meters and with one of the coolest climates in South Africa with extreme diurnal temperature shifts, her wines offer a distinct sense of place. Lismore is the pioneer of Wine of Origin Greyton. This is also an amazing tale of resolve, as in December 2019 Samantha lost the winery and cellars to apparent arson.



LISMORE
ESTATE VINEYARDS

Lismore Viognier Reserve Greyton 2023

£225.00

“The 2023 Viognier Estate Reserve was oxidatively handled aged for 11 months on the lees in 500-liter barrels. Allowing it to open over five minutes, this has a gorgeous bouquet with yellow plum, egg whites, white linen and nectarine, gaining complexity all the time. The palate is well balanced with a bright entry. It’s slightly more citrus-driven than the previous” **95 Points Neal Martin**

Lismore Estate Cuvée Blanc Reserve, Greyton 2023

£225.00

“The 2023 Cuvée Blanc Reserve is from a vineyard planted in 2016 that burned in the fire three years later. The vines were cut back and, fortunately, re-grew. This is a blend of 90% Roussanne, 5% Chardonnay and 5% Viognier, oxidatively handled and fermented on the lees for 11 months in 500-liter barrels. It has a vibrant bouquet with honeysuckle, Clementine and a touch of chamomile, blossoming in the glass. Gorgeously textured and slightly waxy on the finish, this will mature with style. Highly recommended.” Drinking Window: 2025-2040. **94 Points Neal Martin**

Lukas Van Loggerenberg

Lukas Van Loggerenberg appeared extremely relaxed and content with his 2023s, notably given the anxiety some others experienced. His demeanour seems well justified; his characteristically earlier-picked style proved to be exactly what was needed in 2023. All his fruit was safely in the cellar before the rains hit Stellenbosch and troubled many others.



He describes his whites as some of the best he's ever made, with great depth and intensity, and his reds as tight and elegant. This 2023 collection is all hit, no miss - each wine full of character. If there is a hallmark to the Loggerenberg style, it is perhaps a finer, sharper line of freshness through the wines, which are routinely acclaimed for their effusive, complex perfumes.

Kamaraderie Chenin Blanc 2023 Swartland

£175.00

Kamaraderie requires a little focus, yet in 2023 its class simply leaps out of the glass. So pure and sophisticated with complex herbal notes of fennel along with hay and ripe citrus, this is a gorgeous Chenin. From two old blocks on the Paardeberg, planted in 1961 and 1968 on decomposed granite soils. Aged 82% in concrete the rest in used 500L barrel. **95 Points, Tim Atkin**

Breton Cabernet Franc 2023 Stellenbosch

£160.00



Lukas Van Loggerenberg

A tight, steely feeling Cabernet Franc laced with graphite, spice and deeper red and black fruits, finishing on a fresh herbal note with very precise acidities. Lukas considers 2023 a super aromatic vintage, something he tries to lean in to via long skin contact and the gentlest of extractions. Breton comes from two sites: 75% from the vineyard next to Meerlust, where the soils are a mix of granite, clay and gravel and 25% from the Polkadraai Hills (Blue Gum Grove - Carinus), on decomposed granite. The final blend amounted to 40% aged in concrete and 60% in 500L barrel. **96 Points, Tim Atkin**

Graft Syrah 2023 Polkadraai Hills

£180.00

Karibib is widely regarded as one of the Capes unofficial Grands Crus and Lukas van Loggerenberg certainly knows how to get the best out of the site. Whole bunch fermented in concrete and 20% second-fill barrels, Graft has wild herb aromas of thyme and rosemary, structured, serious tannins, undertones of incense and white pepper and layers of blackberry, dill and damson. Drink 2025-2032.

97 Points Tim Atkin

Minimalist Wines - Sam Lambson

It was a pleasure to taste the new releases recently with Sam Lambson, who is proving to be one of the bright young stars of the Cape wine scene.

minimalistwines

Sam has a special love for cool climate Syrah. At the tender age of 26, he is a protégé of Lukas van Loggerenberg and Chris Alheit.

Stars in the Dark 2023

£139.00



Sam Lambson

The message on the back label gives an insight into the harsh conditions on the exposed slopes of Cape Agulhas. The nose has a beautiful freshness, and plenty of fruit, stewed berries, cranberry, and hints of green pepper. The palate has some oyster-shell which gives a delicious briney and saline quality to it, giving a nod to the coastal location. The wine is treated gently in the winery with gentle foot stomping, but a little more whole bunch also favoured in this vintage. Fermentation and aged for 12 months in large neutral oak.

“Smells spicy, medicinal, wintergreen and balm. Taffeta texture to those tannins with a splice of cumin and iodine, coffee and chicory. Rose hips. The fruit is like a soft kiss, almost breathy, barely there. Sam Lambson is like the John Sargent of Syrah winemakers, somehow capturing the intricacy and intimacy and power of colour

and light in the most transparent, light-touch way possible. Despite the tight, tight finish, the wine seems to float” **17.5 Jancis Robinson.com**

No Place Like Home 2023

£139.00

The nose has a beautiful freshness, and plenty of fruit, stewed berries, cranberry, and hints of green pepper. The palate has some oyster-shell which gives a delicious briney and saline quality to it, giving a nod to the coastal location. The wine is treated gently in the winery with gentle foot stomping, but a little more whole bunch also favoured in this vintage. Fermentation and aged for 12 months in large neutral oak.

“It may have been a hard vintage, but damn, this is beautiful. Soaring, floral, sweet and salty and saturated with blood and juice and pulse and thrum. Bacon and cello. Tannins like rose petals. Rose harissa and baharat. Dark cherry and damson fruit. Soaring and glorious. A triumph” **17.5 Jancis Robinson.com**

Eben Sadie, Swartland

Eben Sadie spent eight years “roaming the world in search of answers” before launching the Sadie Family project in 1999. He has been at the forefront of a revolution, establishing a cult following for the region's Syrah and Mediterranean blends.



THE SADIE FAMILY WINES PTY LTD.

Central to this success is the identification of fine vineyards with diverse soil, aspect, and mesoclimate. The Sadie Family fully controls seven leased vineyard parcels spread across the Swartland district, primarily planted with Syrah and a small parcel of Mourvèdre. Eben aims to create wines that are fresh, flavoursome, refined, harmonious, and balanced. They should reflect their place of origin and provide drinking pleasure at the highest quality, regardless of their age.

Pofadder Cinsault 2023 Swartland

SOLD OUT

The 2023 Pofadder displays highly complex aromas and is one of the most stylish presentations of Cinsault we have seen. The overall balance and depth of the wine are just sublime. The complex fruit aromas and earthy aspects carry through to the mouthfeel and taste, which is a more mature style of Cinsault. The overall balance and crisp acidity make for a long, persisting aftertaste.

Treinspoor 2023 Swartland

SOLD OUT

This 2023 Treinspoor comes straight out of the blocks with the most complex, spicy, and earthy aromas. The entire wine smells like beautiful soil that was just ploughed. The earthy aromas and the bright red fruit aromas are packed together, resting on substantial tannins and acidity that will carry this into the future. Please afford this wine time.

Skerpioen 2023 Swartland

SOLD OUT

The 2023 Skerpioen displays the usual limey and citrus flavours associated with the vineyard. This wine's distinctive saline qualities, salty taste, and minerality are again prominent. The Chenin and Palomino field blend is very stable annually in its expression. The tannins and the acidity are slightly softer than in the last two vintages, and this vintage could be savoured earlier as the balance and mouthfeel are already very balanced.

Sakkie Mouton

Sakkie Mouton is the epitome of the classic West Coast maverick - or perhaps the 'West Coast misfit' to use his own words. But, whatever descriptive you use to describe his unique brand of winemaking and marketing, there is no denying this young man's incredible talent, passion and vision. Almost uniquely, despite his enviable and obvious rock star talents, he has never been too confident or arrogant to dismiss advice or unwilling to alter course in the name of producing the very best possible end product.



Sakkie Mouton Revenge of the Crayfish 2023

£175

The 2023 Revenge of the Crayfish is pure Chenin Blanc that spent 11 months in 500-liter oak barrels. This has a waxy, resinous bouquet with light sea spray scents, nicely defined and focused. The palate is fresh and well balanced with notes of orange rind and tangerine. Notes of granny smith apple, citrus, litchi, passion fruit, Fynbos and kelp, with a wet stone minerality. The nose follows through on the palate, and the best expression would be a 'mouthful of west coast sea water.' Enjoy this over the next three or four years.

These vineyards are located on well-drained, sandy soils. Being 5km from the cold Atlantic ocean, it receives a cooling effect that moderates temperatures in this region.

Grapes were hand harvested early in the morning, then taken to the cold room and cooled down for one night. This is done before being whole bunch pressed in an old basket press, and settled for twelve hours without any addition of enzymes except for a little sulphur.

Sakkie Mouton Vloedvlak, Colombar 2023

£170

The 2023 Vloedvlak is a 100% Colombar wine from a old vine vineyard planted in 1978 on the banks of the mighty Olifants River. The vineyard is located about 25 kilometres from the Atlantic Ocean.

Floral, lime, yellow fruits, minerals, kelp, umami. On the mouth there is an intense sensation of saltiness with hints of lime and peach coming through.

Duncan Savage, Cape Town

SAVAGE

Duncan spent 14 vintages as head winemaker at Cape Point Vineyards. In 2011 he started the Savage Wines label with a determination to take the range to another level and beyond. Duncan has an unparalleled understanding of coastal sites and continues to seek out maritime and high elevation sites across the Western Cape.

Some sites can be rather surprising - his Syrah (Girl Next Door) was only planted on a local residential estate for decorative purposes - a bit of flora between the houses, yet it has become one of SA's most sought-after wines! And then there's the Piekenierskloof Grenache (Thief in the Night), the very same vineyard that goes into Eben Sadie's Soldaat.

Duncan has significantly expanded his urban winery in Cape Town, in the last couple of years after having bought the adjacent building, well worth a visit for it's beautiful new spacious tasting room.

Duncan Savage Follow the Line Blend 2023

£162

The 2023 Follow the Line is 93% Cinsault and 7% Syrah from dry-farmed 42-year-old vines on a south-facing, wind-exposed, site in Darling on granitic soils. It has an open-knit, well-defined, transparent bouquet with earthy red berry fruit, tea leaf and bay leaf. The palate is medium-bodied and smooth in texture, with lovely wilted rose petals infusing the red fruit. Leaner than the other Cinsaults, it's easy-drinking in many ways but still complex. This will be irresistible over the next decade.

Duncan Savage White Blend 2023

£162

The 2023 White Blend is 76% Sauvignon Blanc and 24% Sémillon, matured in 20% new oak barrels with more malo than the 2022. This has a complex bouquet with beeswax, wild mint and fennel, the Sémillon marrying beautifully with the Sauvignon. The palate is well balanced with a keen line of acidity. Very poised with impressive weight, it dovetails into a pretty, floral finish. Wonderful.

Storm Wines, Hemel-en-Aarde

Hannes Storm spent 12 vintages as head winemaker at Hamilton Russell. He and wife Nathalia created Storm wines in 2008 when they discovered the perfect terroir and planted two tiny parcels of vines close to the Atlantic.



Storm Wines strives to steer the purest characteristics of each vineyard site towards bottle and cork. Small production, careful viticulture, minimal intervention in the cellar and a constant nod to the Old World present the wines with distinctive personality and character.

Storm Wines Ridge 2023 Chardonnay

£185.00

The Ridge vineyard is planted at high density on an eastern slope at 300m elevation in the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge. Ridge is later picked due to the site and offers cooler fruits and a wonderful, vibrant natural acidity. For the first time, the Chardonnays have been given an extra two months in barrel to tease out the finest elements of the vintage – a strategy they intend to pursue in the future.

“The 2023 Chardonnay Ridge was hand-picked and vinified with 20% whole bunch. It went through 100% malo and matured for 11 months in French oak, including 8% in clay amphora. This has a bright and lively bouquet with lemon balm, linden and light crushed stone aromas. The palate is well balanced with a smooth texture, presenting touches of tangerine and citrus peel. There is a subtle candied element on the finish that I like. Very appealing.” **Neal Martin, Vinous**

Tesselaarsdal, Walker Bay

Tesselaarsdal was founded in 2015 by long-standing Hamilton Russell Vineyards employee Berene Sauls, a winemaker with a more than unique history and story. The small village of Tesselaarsdal in the Overberg, 24km north-east of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley is named after East India

Company settler Johannes Tesselar. On his death in 1810, he bestowed the land to his freed slaves and owner/winemaker Berene herself is a descendant on one of those very slaves.



Fifteen years after starting her career in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, Anthony Hamilton Russell offered her the wonderful opportunity to join the rest of the Hemel-en-Aarde area as a producer. Today, with the expert assistance of Hamilton Russell Vineyards wine maker, Emul Ross and the Hamilton Russell Vineyards team, she wholly owns Tesselaarsdal Wines.

Tesselaarsdal Chardonnay 2023 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge

£155.00

“From unirrigated vineyards on the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, the 2023 Chardonnay is the fifth release of this cuvée. The malo here was blocked with SO₂ to preserve freshness, and then the wine matured in a combination of used oak and clay terracotta jars. This has a refined and understated bouquet that offers light citrus fruit, chalk and a touch of lanolin. The palate is well balanced with a brisk line of acidity and impressive salinity. Lively with lemon rind, orange pith and a touch of grapefruit, this really draws you in with each sip, to the point where I would advise giving it an hour's decant.” **Neal Martin, Vinous**

Tesselaarsdal Pinot Noir 2023 Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge

£185.00

Grapes from Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge. The 2023 Pinot Noir includes 10% whole bunch. It underwent 24-hour cold soak, fermentation naturally and matured in mainly used François Frères barrels (26% new). Fortunately, this was picked before the rains. It has quite a seductive bouquet that takes time to unfold in the glass: brambly red fruit, undergrowth, hints of black olive and wilted rose petals. The complexity comes through nicely on the palate. It's clean, well structured and elegant in style with a transparent finish. This represents another impressive Pinot Noir from winemaker Berene Sauls. **Neal Martin, Vinous**

Tembela Wines

TEMBELA WINES
FAITH.HOPE.BELIEF

A man on a mission, Banele Vakele of Tembela's journey into wine is nothing short of extraordinary. Growing up in the township of Khayelitsha outside of Cape Town, he earned a scholarship to a smart Constantia high school and it was here, and a vineyard that his classroom overlooked that Banele used to stare on to at particular moments of ennui mid-class that so drew him to wine.

A degree at Elsenberg Agricultural College was preceded by 3 years as part of the Cape Winemakers Guild protégé programme, which saw him work stints in Burgundy and Australia, and back home in SA with Ernie Els, Groot Constantia and Savage Wines. Today, he now works as assistant winemaker for Duncan Savage in Salt River and it is where he makes his own wines.

Drawn to Duncan for his ethos in agro ecological farming and minimal intervention winemaking, Banele works with vineyards farmed with the principles of organic farming. Named in honour of his late mother, in Xhosa, Tembela means to have faith, hope and belief, all sentiments that his mother had in Banele's decision to pursue a career in wine. Tiny production from a rising star.

Tembela Wines Chenin Blanc 2023

£125.00

The 2023 Chenin Blanc comes from a south-facing, wind-exposed parcel in Stellenbosch (a different block than the 2022 vintage), raised on the lees for ten months in 500-liter oak, with SO2 added as late as possible. It has a captivating bouquet of lemon curd, white chocolate, wet wool and orange pith, with touches of beeswax emerging with time. The palate is well balanced and poised with fine delineation and a lovely texture, lightly spiced with a dash of white pepper on the persistent finish. Excellent. **92 Points, Neal Martin, Vinous**

Tembela Wines Syrah 2023

£140.00

The 2023 Syrah comes from two parcels (80% from the Karibib Vineyard) and aged for 13 months in 500-liter barrels - a little longer than usual since the harvest was a bit earlier than forecasted. It has a well-defined, very harmonious bouquet with brambly red fruit, white pepper and light bay leaf scents, gently unfolding in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied and very classical in style – you would think this comes from the Northern Rhône. Fine tannins, white pepper and clove run through the persistent finish. This is a very impressive second vintage from winemaker Banele Vakele. **93 Points, Neal Martin, Vinous**