



Handford

W I N E S



Mzokhona Mvemve & Bruwer Raats - MR de Compostella

Handford Wines South Africa Red Great Estates 2019 Offer and MR de Compostella 2020 Release

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The Offer

Introduction

A vintage to celebrate as the long drought was partially broken during the previous winter. Vines breathed a sigh of relief as some ground water was replenished. The growing season was not without difficulty and yields remained well below the norm. But 2019 was triumph for the most diligent and well established exponents of classic reds in Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, Paarl and now Swartland on the western reaches of the Cape. The modern day mantra of good husbandry and careful selection, notwithstanding the penalty of lower productivity, resulted in these favourites of ours standing proud.

These wines have enjoyed some of the highest critical acclaim and now stand fairly and squarely alongside the greatest clarets.

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 autumn of 2022 for onward delivery. When you choose to receive wines the duty (currently £13.39 per case of 6) and V.A.T. 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 delivery per address. Wines may be collected from 105 Old Brompton Road. Storage with us at LCB is currently £1.08 per case (up to 12 bottles) per month inc. VAT. (£0.54 up to 6 bottles)

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

Great Estates 2019

Kanonkop

The Kanonkop Estate is situated on the lower slopes of the Simonsberg Mountain in the Stellenbosch Region of the Cape and consistently boasts some of South Africa's most famous premium wines. A fourth generation family estate, Kanonkop was originally purchased by JW Sauer, a cabinet member in the parliament of the Union of South Africa and the estate has been handed down from father to son for over 40 years, now residing in the capable hands of its current owners Paul & Johann Krige.



The name Kanonkop was derived from a kopje (hillock), from which a cannon was fired in the 17th Century to alert farmers in outlying areas that sailing ships plying the waters between Europe and the Far East had entered Table Bay for a stopover at Cape Town. The Estate is situated on 125 hectares, of which 100 hectares are planted with vines. A small quantity of these red grapes are selected for the production of around 7,000 cases of 6 of the Estate's flagship red Bordeaux blend Paul Sauer, produced by one of South Africa's most intelligent winemakers, Abrie Beeslaar.

Kanonkop Paul Sauer Red Blend 2019

£189.00

(£40.48 per bottle duty and VAT paid)

One of the longest established and most sought after of the Bordeaux blends the Paul Sauer is a stand out in 2019.

"Bunches were small and tight with immense concentration in the fruit and the juice showed balanced chemistry from the onset of fermentation. The most important contribution of terroir lies in the structure of the final wine. And here Paul Sauer 2019 shows a genteel purity, reverberating with a brisk freshness driving an array of classical red wine flavours." - Adrie Beeslaar, wine maker.

Cabernets worked very well and so there is more than usual, 75%, with 14% Cabernet Franc and 11% Merlot. I tasted 2018 and 2019 in December 2022. 2018 is opening well with vibrant and resonant cassis fruits. 2019 is more brooding, with depth, chocolate texture and plenty on the mid palate yet to fully ripen. It needs 3 years. 2025 to 2039

Thelema

Situated on the South Easterly side of the Simonsberg Mountain with elevations 530m above sea level with mainly south-facing slopes, possessing some of the highest elevations in Stellenbosch. The high altitude and the rich red soils are ideal for premium quality wine grape production. Through the understanding of this optimal climate and soil type, the Thelema Estate have firmly entrenched themselves as one of the leaders in Cabernet Sauvignon, placing Stellenbosch Cabernets firmly on the global wine map.

Understanding that grape quality is the single most important factor in serious winemaking, their policy is one of minimum interference, allowing the wines to be a true expression of each vineyard.



Thelema Rabelais 2019 Stellenbosch

£225.00

(£47.68 per bottle duty and VAT paid)

We fell in love with the 2017. The 2019 is a notch up. Rabelais is a must for Cab Sauv fans. It is bolstered by the weight of 10% Petit Verdot but shows all the clean lines, fine tannins and ripe cassis notes of the very best Cabs. There's new French oak here that does add toast and cedar. This will dissipate in the short term to leave an elegant and harmonious red. It's so picture perfect that I will be just supping it solo, but it will of course be the ideal partner to simple red meat dishes. 2026 to 2038



Porseleinberg

The revolutionary Porseleinberg project came about as a result of South African icon Marc Kent's search for premium Rhône grapes for his Boekenhoutskloof and Chocolate Block labels. The journey naturally took him to the Swartland, which at that time was just emerging as a premium South African wine region.

Kent found an ideal 173-acre wine farm atop the Porseleinberg mountain, which he purchased in 2009. He quickly recognized the enormous potential of the area, and after replanting the vineyard to Syrah and Grenache, he

decided to create a premium Swartland Syrah from the choice fruit. He brought in Callie Louw as the viticulturist and winemaker for the project. Louw is the quintessential farmer who finds himself most at home on the tractor or in the vineyard, and has proven himself to be a masterful winemaker.



Porseleinberg Syrah 2019 Swartland

£245.00

(£51.68 per bottle duty and VAT paid)

A remarkable site that is fast becoming one of the most noted Syrah vineyards in the world. The brainchild of Marc Kent, he is a staunch Cote Rotie fan and is humbled by comparisons that pour in. Subtle and focussed fresh red cherry and pomegranate juice are lifted by floral aromatics and more than a hint of five spice. Exquisite Syrah that scored a rare 99 with Tim Atkin MW. Drink now to 2034.

De Toren

In 1994 Emil and Sonette Den Dulk were searching for a special property in the Cape. Their aim was to create South Africa's first five varietal Bordeaux blend with a philosophy of gentle winemaking and detailed vineyard practices. They came to a spot looking out at Table Mountain in the West, across False Bay and east to the Stellenbosch mountains, and they knew they had found what they were looking for.



Stellenbosch native Albie Koch is cellar master. Together with winemaker Charles Williams, they are committed to creating wines that are elegant, nuanced, silky soft and true to site.

De Toren Fusion V 2019 Stellenbosch

£180.00

(£38.68 per bottle duty and VAT paid)

Named after the unique five varietal blend, Fusion V is truly a labour of love where the likes of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot are gently married to form a truly unique South African blend.

The 25 hectares are planted with the classic V varieties from Bordeaux. Careful selection and blending ensures that Fusion V is the best expression of this outstanding land in each year. This perhaps the most claret-like of all the Cape blends we know. Cedar, tobacco, sandalwood and black spice dominated on first taste a year ago. Now the black cherry, spiced plum and lifted cassis notes are coming to the fore. Last few cases of this highly collectable red. Drink now to 2030



MR de Compostella 2020 Vintage

Many of you will know of Bruwer Raats, our genius Cab Franc and Chenin specialist in Stellenbosch. You may not know that he teamed up with Mzokhona Mveve some 20 years ago. Mzokhona is one of the first black South Africans to qualify in oenology, and as a scholar to boot. Their idea was to select the very best fruit, regardless of variety, to make a Bordeaux blend. So far, they have only missed 2010 (heavy rains) and 2019 (very low volumes). So much of the skill (and heated debate!) is in the blending, although destiny is the driving force, hence the name MR (Mveve Raats) de Compostella (field of stars).

MR de Compostella 2020 Stellenbosch Vintage Release

£295.00

(£61.68 per bottle duty and VAT paid)

The 2020 vintage is 30% Cabernet Franc, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Malbec, 16% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot. This is a higher portion of the non Cabernet varieties than is usual (if there is a norm!). The upshot of that is a richer, more textured red with its primary, black fruit notes hiding behind a milky way of silk and chocolate. We have enjoyed tasting back vintages with Bruwer and can attest to a few years in the bottle working wonders. This will be at its very best in 6 to 16 years.

