

Saskia

FINE DINING RESTAURANT



Saskia Fine Dining Restaurant & Wine Cellar

Welcome to Saskia Fine Dining Restaurant and Wine Cellar, where each wine has been carefully selected by our Cape Wine Master. Our wine selection offers you a delectable choice of the best that the South African winelands has to offer, as well as international wines for those discerning and adventurous palates.

Our star rating is based on the John Platter yearly evaluation. Most of the wines at Saskia have between a three and five star rating in the John Platter wine guide. We have marked all these award-winning wines accordingly.

- ★ ☆ (11) Plain and simple
- ★★ (12) Casual quaffing
- ★★ ☆ (13/14) Pleasant drinking
- ★★★★ (15) Good everyday drinking
- ★★★★ ☆ (16) Very good / promising
- ★★★★★ (17) Excellent
- ★★★★★ ☆ (18) Outstanding
- ★★★★★★ (18+) Superlative; a Cape classic

Expect an experience beyond compare...

A corkage fee will be charged should you prefer to enjoy your own bottle of wine or champagne is not part of our wine and champagne list.



Saskia

The inspiration of this award-winning restaurant stems from one of the most remarkable artists of all time, namely Rembrandt van Rijn.

He was a 17th century painter and etcher whose work came to dominate and influence his contemporaries and scholars. Today, he is considered as one of the most revered artists of all time.

His wife, Saskia, was his muse and a pillar of strength all through his life...



Wine by the glass

Enjoy a glass of wine from our selection, which is bound to enhance the flavours of your meal. We guarantee you will find a wine to pair with every course.

WHITE WINE

Stellenbosch	Asara Sauvignon Blanc ★★★☆	120
Franschhoek	Boschendal Le Bouquet (semi-sweet) ★★★☆	75
Stellenbosch	Zonnebloem Chardonnay (wooded) ★★★☆	85
South Africa	Saskia "Guess What?" White House Blend	70

ROSÉ

Stellenbosch	Delheim Pinotage Rosé ★★★☆	95
Coastal Region	Drostdy-Hof Natural Sweet Red ★★	55
Breede River	Gorgeous Chardonnay Pinot Noir	85

RED WINE

Klein Rivier	Raka Biography ★★★★★☆	185
Wellington	Diemersfontein Pinotage ★★★☆	145
Stellenbosch	Asara Merlot ★★★	135
South Africa	Masterpiece Pinotage House Blend	70
Stellenbosch	Klein Zalze Cabernet Sauvignon ★★★☆	85
South Africa	Saskia "Guess What?" Red House Blend	70



Champagne

A still life painting in the upper right corner of the page. It features several champagne bottles lying on their sides, some with their cork caps removed. The bottles are surrounded by clusters of red fruit, likely strawberries or raspberries. The background is a textured, warm-toned wash of colors, primarily reds, oranges, and yellows, suggesting a rustic or celebratory setting.

All champagnes are sparkling wines, but only sparkling wines made in the region of France known as Champagne may be labelled as Champagne.

Epernay - Dom Perignon Blanc 2000 ~ 12 000

Satiny texture unfurls on the palate, embracing and caressing it. Momentary weightlessness with a vibrating finish that arouses the taste buds with controlled ardour.

Rheims - Veuve Clicquot Rich ~ 3 400

The fruit is boosted to a new exciting level. The signature Pinot Noir of Veuve Clicquot is given a new versatility with a higher dosage, while a greater presence of Meunier emphasizes fresh fruity and gourmand note.

Rheims - Veuve Clicquot Rosé ~ 2 800

Notes of raspberry, wild cherry and strawberry predominate, followed by a touch of dried fruit and pastry. In the mouth, the attack is powerful, leaving behind a harmony of fruits. Elegant and sensual, the wine offers exceptional balance and surprising intensity.

Champagne



Rheims - Veuve Clicquot Brut ~ 2 500

The first sip delivers all the freshness and forcefulness with a symphony of fruit tastes following on. Lingering aromas echo and re-echo, with each fruit or spice note distinct. This consistent power to please makes it ideal as an aperitif, and perfect as the Champagne to enjoy with a meal.

Epernay - Moët & Chandon Rosé ~ 2 700

The palate is flamboyant and combines intensity and roundness: fleshy and juicy first, then firm fruit stone, with a subtle herbal mint finish.

Epernay - Moët & Chandon Nectar Imperial Rosé ~ 3 000

A lightly sweet rosé, displaying cherry, ginger and honey notes. Open and airy in texture, yet smooth, lingering nicely on the finish.

Epernay - Moët & Chandon NV ~ 2 200

Radiant aromas of citrus and white peach, floral nuances and elegant toasty flavours. Seductive palette combining elegance, fullness and finesse, followed by a delicate crispness.

Epernay - Moët & Chandon Nectar Imperial ~ 2 500

Lightly sweet, with ripe apple, honey and candied citrus peel flavours. Round and accessible, with a fresh finish.

Prosecco



Valdobbiadene - Valdo Cartizee ~ 670

The dominant notes are pear and apple followed closely by apricot and crushed apricot pits. Lovely hints of lemongrass. Fizzy on the tongue with slightly bitter lemon zest and herbal buttery finish. Acidity is high but well integrated.

Valdobbiadene - Valdo Cuvée del Fondatore ~ 890

Prestigious Cuvée obtained with a special sparkling technique including a partial refinement in French oak casks. Dedicated to the company founder who strongly believed in the great future growth and potential of Prosecco: Sergio Bolla. Notes of ripe fruits, hazelnut, vanilla and a subtle scent of honey. The flavor is full and harmonious with a velvety taste. Fruity fragrances melt with the spicy barrique aromas.

Valdobbiadene - Valdo Floral Edition Dry Rose ~ 630

The exquisite floral design on the bottle is created by Fabrizio Sclavi, the eminent Italian fashion editor with a special passion for illustration, who has collaborated with icons like Ferrari, Giorgio Armani, Andy Warhol and photographer, Oliviero Toscani among others. The enticing colour of pink rose petals with a tinge of watermelon, and aromas of raspberry and spring flowers lead to an enveloping fruitiness on the palate.

Valdobbiadene - Valdo Oro Blanc De Blanc ~ 670

Precious and eternal as special instants of life. Typically floral bouquet, with strong pear, lime, lemon, and golden apple fruit, citrus aroma. Light and dry on the palate. As with most Proseccos, the bubbles almost expand or rather disintegrate into smaller bubbles on the palate, making the wine very smooth and almost creamy.

Methode Cap Classique

South African sparkling wines made in the traditional French method (methode champenoise) are referred to as Methode Cap Classiques or MCC's. Wine that has been impregnated with CO² bubbles is simply termed sparkling wine whereas MCC's undergo a second fermentation in the bottle to create sought-after bubbles.

Franschhoek - Colmant Cap Classique ★★★★★☆ ~ 830

A subtle golden glow is reflected amongst a graceful dance of bubbles. The nose is delicate and elegant with its gentle spicy toastiness, a beautiful lemon and brioche perfume and the soft scent of mature stone fruits.

Stellenbosch - Pongrácz Brut Rosé ★★★ ~ 560

Delights the palate as much as the eye and evokes an air of romance with its delicate salmon pink hue. Delicate strawberry tones are layered with whiffs of baked bread. On the palate, it is perfectly balanced with clean acidity and juicy blackberry fruit.

Brede River - Graham Beck Bliss ★★★★★ ~ 650

Light yeasty aromas, with hints of butterscotch, honey and praline, this delectable bubbly will stimulate your sweeter senses.

Stellenbosch - Pongrácz Brut ★★★★★ ~ 550

Crisp green apple notes and nuttiness of freshly baked bread are prevalent on the nose. On the palate, delicate yeasty tones, layered with toast and ripe fruit are enlivened by a firm mousse and persistent bead that make it particularly attractive. It imparts a wonderful foamy mouthful of blackberry fruit flavours with a long lingering aftertaste.

Method Cap Classique

Stellenbosch - Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel Brut ~ 490

Jewel-like in clarity with a straw-coloured undertone, this sophisticated Cap Classique excites with a symphony of energetic, yet elegant bubbles, and notes of white peach and red berries. The flavour of freshly baked bread comforts the palate, while the fine balance between the fruit and acidity displays beautiful finesse and elegance.

Breede River - Graham Beck Nectar Rose NV ~ 630

A pink-hued Cap Classique with seductive sweet and smooth flair. With aromas of strawberry, spiced peach and creamy raspberry.

Breede River - Graham Beck Brut NV ~ 620

A delightful Cap Classique with light yeasty aromas, fresh lime fruit and a rich creamy complexity on the palate





Rembrandt

No other painter has portrayed himself as often as Rembrandt. Practically every year a new self-portrait was produced, whether painted, drawn or etched.

His self-portraits form a unique and intimate biography, in which the artist surveyed himself without vanity and with the utmost sincerity.

His rough paint surfaces, dramatic lighting and pensive, down-to-earth characters increasingly set him apart from prevailing trends.

Flesh tones

Rembrandt created his distinctive portraits with a small palette of colours dominated by dark earth tones and golden highlights. He was a master of chiaroscuro, an Italian term for a style using strong lights and heavy shadows to create depth in a painting and a centre of interest.

One of Rembrandt's apprentices wrote that he excelled in 'skin-like colouring' meaning he could render human flesh tones in the most realistic way possible. This is the main reason he was so sought after as a portrait painter.



Sparkling Wine

Some winemakers produce a non-MCC sparkling wine, which is simply fizzed up with bubbles by injecting carbon dioxide into the wine. This is a faster and inexpensive method, which also allows those who would prefer to avoid yeast, to have a celebratory glass of bubbly.

Western Cape - Rietvallei John B Chardonnay Brut ~ 250

An exciting and lovely dry sparkling wine expressing flavours of fresh citrus and orange blossom. The palate reveals green apple flavours and is full-bodied with a good balancing acidity and finishes with a lingering, yeasty aftertaste.

Western Cape - Rietvallei John B Rosé Brut ~ 250

This sparkling wine has a lovely floral bouquet expressing a mixture of berry-fruit flavours and a hint of Muscat which carries through nicely to the palate, leaving a long-lasting aftertaste.



Splurge section

White wines

This section is a must read for any wine lover, connoisseur and for those who are in search of that truly special bottle of wine.

Stellenbosch - Ken Forrester The FMC Chenin Blanc ★★★★★☆ ~ 2 100

This icon chenin is rich, layered with dried apricot, vanilla and honey. Hand-selected primarily from low yielding, old bush vines and harvested at full maturity. Will gain additional complexity with cellaring.

Cape Town - Steenberg Magna Carta ★★★★★☆ ~ 1 700

On the nose, the harmonious blend shows aromas of elderflower, gooseberries and orange blossom. The palate is broad and textured with a bright line of acidity giving the wine backbone.

France - Loire De Ladoucette Pouilly Fume Sauvignon Blanc ~ 1 450

An enchanting wine made from very low yields. The grapes are hand-picked, and only the best grapes go into the bottle. Delicate and fresh with lemon and taut mineral tones.

Hamilton Russell Chardonnay ~ 1 950

A tight, mineral wine complexity. Prominent pear and lime fruit aromas and flavors drawing a tight line of bright natural acid with a long, dry mineral finish.



Splurge section

White wines

Coastal Region - Miles Mossop Saskia White Blend ★★★★★ ~ 720

This aromatic wine combines the best aroma offerings of Chenin Blanc and Viognier. Honeysuckle and lime abound with inclusions of ripe tropical fruits, like mango and pineapple.

Coastal Region - Cape Point Reserve Sauvignon Blanc ★★★★★☆ ~ 550

This wine shows a complex array of tropical fruit, grapefruit and limes, held together by an incredible mineral backbone. The palate is focused and racy, made in a style to be a wonderful food companion.

Elim - David Nieuwoudt Ghost Corner Sauvignon Blanc ★★★★★ ~ 710

Focused and full-flavoured with breath-taking intensity. Capsicum, fig and lemongrass aromas. Gooseberry flavours and great minerality from cool growing conditions. Skin and lees contact enhances richness.





The Night Watch

The 17th century saw an unparalleled output of art and the number of paintings produced during this period is staggering, and many of them are of outstanding quality.

Perhaps the most famous painting is the work by Rembrandt known as 'The Night Watch'. What makes this painting revolutionary is that Rembrandt took what could have been a boring row of figures and turned it into a lively action scene. One contemporary said that it made other group portraits look as flat as playing cards.



The most productive portrait artist ever...

Amongst the 2 300 works of art by Rembrandt, there are at least 100 self-portraits - 60 of them are paintings, and the balance includes etchings and drawings. In addition, Rembrandt included himself in several other works of art as either a spectator or participant.



Splurge section

Red wines

Paarl - Vilafonté Series C ★★★★★☆ ~ 5 600

The wine exhibits an incredible deep red-black colour. Captivating mineral notes are present with blackcurrant preserve, liquorice, espresso roast and wet pebbles distinguishing the complex aromas and bouquet. On the palate Series C shows great focus, a very well balanced tannin structure and beautiful density of flavour contributing to an expected cellaring potential for this wine.

Paarl - Vilafonté Series M ★★★★★☆ ~ 3 400

The wine displays a deep dark red to black colour. An intense nose of black currants, dark chocolate and spice is followed by black cherries & liquorice. The Series M 2018 is full and layered, big in structure but still very accessible.

Stellenbosch - Beyerskloof Faith ★★★★★ ~ 3 200

A full bodied Cape blend with an intense dark claret colour. A wine with loads of sweet berry and pepper flavours in balance with new French oak. This wine is big in structure, although with supple, strong tannins ensuring a long aftertaste with a refreshing acidity.

Splurge section

Red wines

Stellenbosch - DeWaal Top of the Hill Pinotage ★★★★★☆ ~ 1 600

Beautiful plum and spice flavours with dark fruit, rich on middle palate, with a smooth and lingering finish

Stellenbosch - Ernie Els Signature ★★★★★☆ ~ 2 400

The Ernie Els Signature is a brooding, powerful Bordeaux-style blend. Predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon, the purple edge and pitch black core immediately points to its unwavering nature and shadowing depth. Time in the glass uncovers notes of candied orange, cardamom, clove and dark olives, leading to an intense palate that shines with graphite and cassis.

Stellenbosch - Beyerskloof Diesel Pinotage ★★★★★☆ ~ 3 300

A big structured Pinotage with intense dark fruit flavours. A complex middle leads to a smooth finish with pleasant cedar flavours from the oak. Great balance between fruit and oak will allow superb ageing in the bottle for 10 years and more. The ideal match to spicy Indian dishes or a well matured rump or sirloin steak.

Cederberg - Cederberg Five Generations Cabernet Sauvignon ★★★★★☆ ~ 1 900

A serious boutique-style wine, from a single, low-yield vineyard of 23 years old. Rich complexity, multi-layered plum and cassis fruit flavours with tobacco and some earthy tones. A wine with power and weight.

Stellenbosch ~ Kanonkop Pinotage ★★★★★☆ ~ 1 550

A very complex wine with hints of red fruit flavours which reflects some Pinot Noir style elegance and structure. Big, bold tannin structures which are down played by ripe tannins and elegance.

Splurge section

Red wines



Stellenbosch - Rust en Vrede Estate (Red blend) ★★★★★☆ ~ 1 650

Savory oak aromas combined with mocha coffee and pencil shavings. Hints of dark fruit, plum and cassis also come to the fore. Great structure and balance.

Stellenbosch - Warwic Touch ~ 2 750

The nose has inviting rum and maple vanilla soufflé and dried fig note which are carried through to black pepper, bramble berry, marjoram and thyme. The natural dark colour derived from the vineyard is deep and alluring with shades of violet and blackberry.

Hemel-en-Aarde Valley - Hamilton Russell Vineyards Pinot Noir ★★★★★☆ ~ 2 200

Alluring garnet colours, with lots of wild berry on the nose and hints of violet, coffee and smoked meat. The palate is seductive and complex, brimming with berries and mushrooms.

Constantia - Eagles Nest Shiraz ★★★★★ ~ 1 100

Typical cool climate Shiraz character. Ripe blue berries and hints of soil, austere initially on the nose, then lead pencil character emerges after a while.

Stellenbosch - Thelema Cabernet Sauvignon ★★★★★ ~ 980

Ripe red berry, cassis and dark chocolate flavours. The wine has fine tannins with a long, mocha finish. A great wine to pair with roast lamb or game.

White wine selection

Riesling

To wine connoisseurs, it is simply one of the world's greatest white grapes. These grapes are fine and elegant, often with a rich bouquet of floral and fruity aromas that reveal mineral nuances. Perfect for lunches, fish, fowl and even light red meat.

Constantia - Klein Constantia Rhine Riesling ★★☆☆ ~ 650

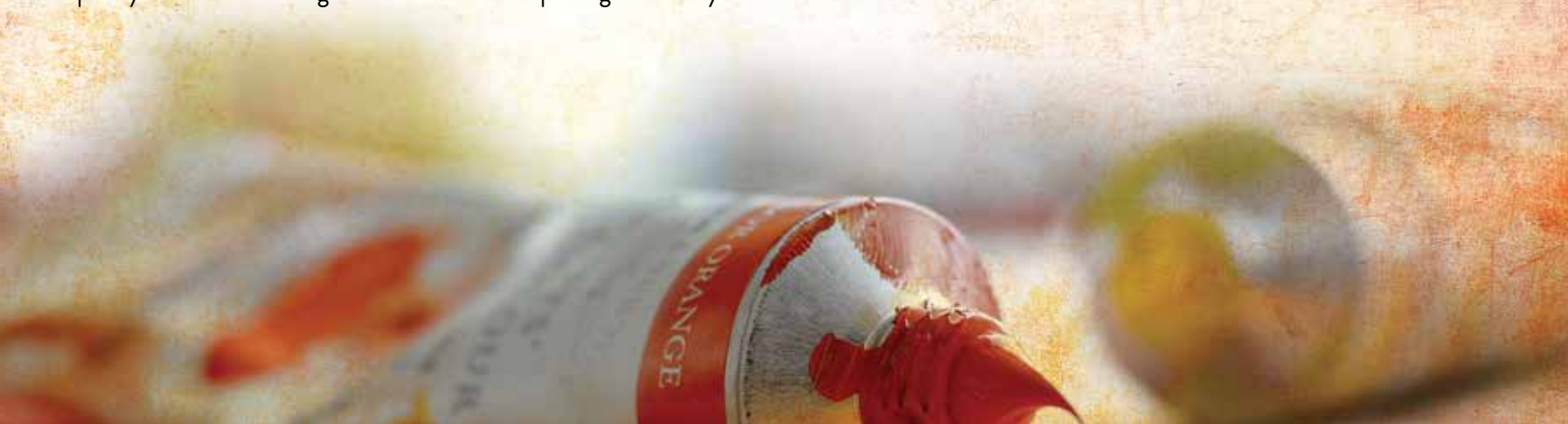
Green-gold in appearance, the nose bursts with citrus blossom aromas and a fine mineral note.

The palate is fresh, with a firm acid backbone and good weight. The citrus flavours persist well into the finish and are supported by a broad, elegant mouthfeel.

Stellenbosch - Hartenberg Weiser Riesling ★★★★★ ~ 480

The spicy richness on the nose gives way to a taut yet floral and fruity mid-palate that has both richness and complexity.

The residual sugar is barely noticeable and if anything, it contributes extra fullness and richness to the palate. This is a quality wine that offers great value and food-pairing versatility.



White wine selection

Sauvignon Blanc



The name Sauvignon derives from 'savage', meaning wild, which could describe its grassy, gooseberry flavours. Enjoy with buttery dishes, salads, fish dishes and delicately flavoured foods.

George - The Goose Sauvignon Blanc ★★★ ~ 390

Due to the very high natural acidity of the fruit, these wines have a zesty nature and have a strongly mineral ambitious style. The bouquet of the wine is Cape Floral driven with a sure tropical distinction.

Stellenbosch - Villiera Bush Vine Sauvignon Blanc ★★★★★ ~ 590

The Traditional Bush Vine style of Sauvignon Blanc focuses on the greener spectrum of varietal character. The bunches hang in the shade and harvesting occurs early to ensure a refreshing style, displaying green pepper and fig with some smokiness. It is intensely flavoured with good structure and it has the ability to keep. With age, it develops asparagus like aromas and on the palate, it softens.

Stellenbosch - Asara Sauvignon Blanc ★★★☆ ~ 370

A rich tropical profile with slight green pepper aromas, the unmistakable hallmark of Mediterranean climate Sauvignon Blanc, shows with layers of creaminess and ripe tropical fruit.

Durbanville - Durbanville Hills Sauvignon Blanc ★★★ ~ 255

This Sauvignon Blanc boasts seamlessly layered flavours ranging from tropical fruit to fig, lime, guava and gooseberry, leading up to a crisp finish. Pale green in colour, this wine is a combination of fruit flavours and green pepper with a crisp acidity and full mouth-feel.

Darling - Alexanderfontein Sauvignon Blanc ★★★☆ ~ 200

A bright straw-green colour with a mineral, green pepper nose and a medium bodied crisp palate. A waxy, white peach finish with a lingering aftertaste.

Inward reflection

The number of self-portraits featuring Rembrandt suggests a well developed vanity. There were times in his young manhood when he may have wished to appear more handsome than he was and although he used his own face merely as a model, contorting it into expressions of anger, joy and shock, he took a very penetrating and merciless view of himself.



The hidden truth

It is a curious fact that one of Rembrandt's self-portraits, painted in 1634, was tampered with by a pupil shortly after it was produced. The pupil turned it into an anonymous Russian wearing a tall cap. After restoration, the self-portrait re-emerged.

Why would a beautiful self-portrait be painted over?
Was Rembrandt not satisfied with it?
These questions could never be answered.

What is sure is the signature on the original painting is not forged. After this painting had been restored and the self-portrait of Rembrandt discovered, the owner sold it at auction.

It was bought in 2003 for 10 million Euro's by a Las Vegas casino owner.



White wine selection

Chenin Blanc

South Africa has the most extensive plantings of Chenin Blanc in the world. This is a very diverse variety that possesses a built-in balance of strength and acidity that makes it capable of many styles. This wine is a perfect accompaniment to all our spicy dishes.

Paarl - Avondale Anima Chenin Blanc ★★★★★ ~ 950

Anima has a nose that develops intriguingly in the glass. Winter melon, pineapple, lime and a hint of honey confirm the elegance and fullness of this softly wooded, supple Chenin Blanc. The palate is dense with fresh fruit flavours of gooseberry, quince and peach, all harmonising superbly with the soulful minerality that gives this wine its name.

Wellington - Diemersfontein Carpe Diem Chenin Blanc ★★★★★ ~ 210

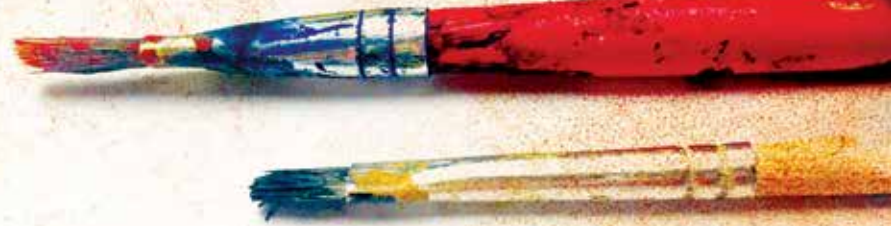
A nose of citrus and pineapple, taste of green apples and pears with warm toasty biscuit aromas to add balance. Good acid lends to this wine's fine length and versatility.

Stellenbosch - Mulderbosch Chenin Blanc - Steen op Hout ★★★★★ ~ 270

With a delicate green golden appearance, the wine promises a fresh array of wonderful fruit aromas. Papaya, melon and limes jostle for attention aside freshly sliced Granny Smith apples and touches of oak spice. Sourced as it was from an array of mature vineyards across the Western Cape, the wine is richly layered with golden ripe fruit and finely balanced texture. The well poised finish and persistent length are hall marks of this great grape.

Stellenbosch - Kleine Zalze Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc ★★★★★ ~ 230

Concentrated aromas of guava, litchi and sweet melon on the nose with subtle oak notes. On the palate there is ripe fruit with hints of minerality and good combination of oak gives a full but yet elegant finish to the wine. This wine can be enjoyed now but will definitely reward those who wait, with careful cellaring it should age gracefully over the next 10 years.



White wine selection

Chardonnay

Seductive, endlessly charming Chardonnay has invaded vineyards all around the world. The flavours are often bold and expansive and range from light peach, pineapple, melon and limes in the unwooded style to ripe summer fruits, nuts, butterscotch, vanilla and fresh toast in the barrel mature wooded styles.

Stellenbosch - Bouchard Finlayson Missionvale ★★★★★ ~ 1 250

This bottling shows a youthful feel from a great vintage, expressing fine intensity and a long, mouth-watering finish. Loads of honey and peach flavours, all supported by the excellent classic cooperage that is characterised by its seamless palate, mouth feel and abundantly rich pronouncement on the palate.

Stellenbosch - Asara Chardonnay ★★★☆ ~ 340

The wine offers prominent ruby grapefruit, crisp Golden Delicious apples and delicate honeysuckle on the nose. On the palate, the oak component imparts texture and vanilla creaminess to the wine which is balanced by zesty citrus flavours. The finish is smooth with a lasting peach aroma.

Stellenbosch - Zonnebloem Chardonnay ★★★☆ ~ 260

Clear in colour with hints of straw, the bouquet reflects a base of citrus with a burst of tangerine and lime. On the palate, it has an elegant minerality with subtle vanilla oak spice and a lean, refreshing lime aftertaste.

Robertson - Van Loveren Chardonnay ★★★ ~ 240

Slightly wooded with aromas of canned apple, mandarin and grapefruit that follows through on palate. A dry, well balanced wine with clean citrus and light smoky and nutty tones on the palate.



White wine selection

White blends

South Africa - Saskia Guess What? ~ 210

Any wine drinker with a good palate will know the name of the Saskia House Wine. Try it and see what you think.

Other Varietals

Semi-sweet refers to a table wine that is marginally sweet on a producers' sweetness scale.

Constantia - Constantia Uitsig Semillon ★★★★★ ~ 580

100% barrel fermented Semillon with 20% new oak gives intense, upfront aromas with flavours of nectarines and citrus fruits supported by subtle wood spice flavours. The wine shows exceptional balance of fruit and oak with a long, lingering finish. Excellent with a wide variety of foods, try this with risotto, shellfish or mild curries.

Semi sweet wines

Cederberg - Cederberg Bukettraube ★★★☆ ~ 330

A rare cultivar with 77 hectares remaining left in the world. Cederberg Bukettraube is an explosion of aroma and flavour. It has prominent Muscat flavours with apricot and floral notes on the nose. A well-balanced wine with a delicate sweetness and a crisp acidity.

Franschhoek - Boschendal Le Bouquet ★★★ ~ 230

This medium-sweet wine has a delicate freshness and a juicy fruit core, embracing characters of peach and apricot with hints of cinnamon and honey. Tantalising vibrancy and smooth, with an uncloying tangerine finish.

Rosé

Not only very fashionable, but most refreshing and thirst quenching for a warm summer drink.

Paarl - Avondale Camissa Rosé ★★★☆ ~ 645

A blend of two flavourful varieties, Camissa arrests the nose with rose petals, scented pelargonium and fresh red fruits of the earth. Hints of Turkish Delight and lemon zest attest to the perfect acidity of this wine; for Camissa may appear sweet but it finishes completely dry.

Stellenbosch - Delheim Pinotage Rosé ★★☆☆ ~ 280

Vibrant, light pink in colour. Crisp acidity with sweet berry fruit. The wine is still primary with cranberry, strawberry and floral aromas on the palate and nose.

Breede River - Graham beck Gorgeous ~ 255

The wine delivers a richly textured taste sensation with intriguing layers that unfold delicately on the palate. It features spicy, mineral scented aromas of orange blossom, jasmine and pear followed by layers of mouth filling raspberry cream, grapefruit, lime and honeydew melon flavours.

Paarl - Fairview Goats do Roam Rosé ~ 210

Pale rose pink colour, with hints of raspberries and floral aromas in the nose. Red berries and an elegant dry fresh finish on the palate.

Tulbagh - Drostdy-Hof Natural Sweet Red ★★ ~ 160

This light, delicately fruity wine is 25% lower in alcohol and 10% lower in kilojoules than a normal table wine, making it ideal for the health-conscious. It is an easy-drinking wine, bright ruby in colour and soft and refreshing with a clean, sweet finish.

Red wines

Pinot Noir

Stellenbosch - Bouchard Finlayson Galpin Peak Pinot Noir ★★★★★☆ ~ 1 120

A bold wine with rich fruity expression, packed with a medley of dark berry and plum flavours. Open textured, velvety and appealing for covert enjoyment from a lingering and expressive finish. Will mature for many years to come.

Stellenbosch - Meerlust Pinot Noir ★★★★★☆ ~ 1 100

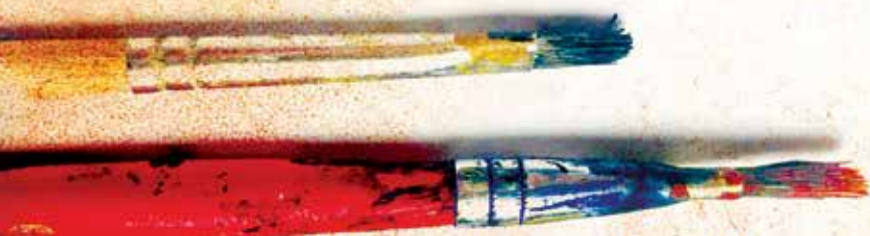
Intense, vivid translucent youthful purple-ruby appearance. The wine shows pronounced lifted perfume on the nose with red berry fruit, musk, wild mushrooms and hints of savoury richness and spice and a clean vibrant minerality. On the palate there are very pure Pinot fruit flavours on entry with red cherry and musk flavours coupled with fresh acidity. The wine has layered complexity with great elegance and finesse. Very fine lacy, almost powdery tannin on the finish.

France - Louis Latour Domaine de Valmoissine Pinot Noir ~ 700

Blessed with a lovely ruby red colour with garnet tints, the wine has an intense nose with aromas of Morello cherries. It is harmonious in the mouth with slightly young tannins which will soon become fine and silky-smooth. It is a wonderfully balanced wine.

Stellenbosch - Flagstone Fiona Pinot Noir ★★★★★☆ ~ 480

A solid, garnet red colour with rosy edges make this wine a stunner from the word go. It shows a smoky, earthy richness with subtle spices on the nose. Loads of red fruit and flavours of rich strawberry reduction add weight to the mid-palate, with a balanced, well-rounded acidity completing the taste sensation.



Red wines

Pinotage

In 1925, Abraham Izak Perold planted hybrid seeds resulting from a crossing of Pinot Noir and Hermitage grapes in his garden at Welgevallen in Stellenbosch. Little did he know that this would for ever be part of South Africa's wine history, eventually growing to become our unique selling point around the world. Excellent with game, curries and pepper steaks.

Wellington - Diemersfontein ★★☆☆ ~ 430

On the nose, distinct coffee, rich dark chocolate and baked plums. The ripe subtle tannins create a wine to be drunk very young. This unique style of Pinotage is a perfect accompaniment to salmon, roast venison and even chocolate mousse. Dark chocolate with a hint of mint and baked plums on the nose.

Paarl - Barista Coffee Pinotage ★★★ ~ 250

A burst of intense, rich coffee and chocolate aromas with ripe nuances of mulberry, plum and Maraschino cherries. The sweet aromas of vanilla and banana follow through on the palate and create with the ripe, luscious tannins a wine ready to be enjoyed.

Stellenbosch - Kleine Zalze Pinotage ★★☆☆ ~ 255

This is a very elegant expression of Pinotage. On the bouquet, there are notes of ripe, red fruit with floral tones and hints of lavender. The flavours follow through on the palate which also has a firm yet elegant tannin structure that will allow the wine to mature well over the next 5-8 years.

Red wines

Merlot

Merlot, which in French means 'The Little Blackbird', is known for being soft, ripe and elegant. Most Merlots are easy drinking reds that go well both with food as well as on their own. This is an approachable grape varietal and is often recommended as the first red wine someone new to red wine should drink.

Stellenbosch - Meerlust Merlot ★★★★★ ~ 1 050

A deep, youthful purple colour with a ruby rim. Intense dark brambly fruit on the nose, mulberry, liquorice and damson plum with hints of dark chocolate and spice, tempered by a stony minerality. The full-bodied palate offers generous, ripe, pure Merlot fruit with refreshing acidity, structured yet silky tannins and pronounced length and minerality.

Stellenbosch - Thelema Merlot ★★★★★ ~ 650

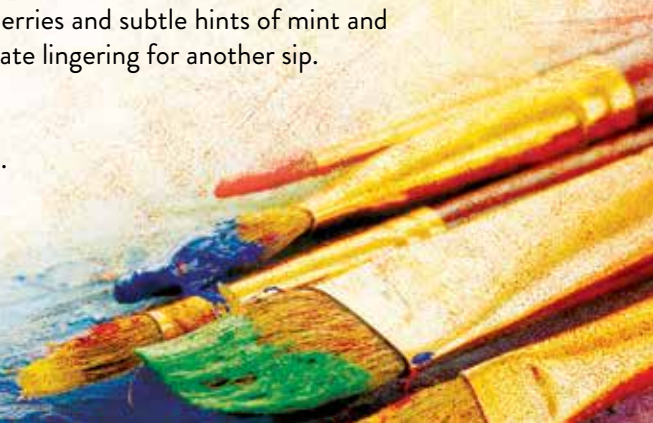
The wine shows bright, red fruit and hints of spice on the nose, with concentrated flavours on the palate and soft, polished tannins. Hints of dark chocolate complete this wonderfully balanced wine.

Stellenbosch - Asara Merlot ★★★ ~ 410

A complex wine, with fresh red berries and spices on the nose. Baked raspberries, sweet cherries and subtle hints of mint and vanilla unfold throughout this layered wine. A smooth, well balanced finish leaves your palate lingering for another sip.

Darling - Roseline by Ormonde ~ 290

A vibrant wine with flavours of fresh plum, black pepper, liquorish and a hint of black olive. Great mouthfeel and balance, it shows elegance and energy.



Red wines

Shiraz

Shiraz, alias Syrah, the wine for red wine lovers. These are bold wines with good fruit and tannins. Its inherent spicy flavour is surrounded by a combination of red and black summer berries, then laced with seductive smoky tones such as leather, often with that subtle hint of 'garrigue' as the French would say, but we prefer 'fynbos'. Enjoy with roast chicken, casseroles and venison.

Paarl - Avondale Samsara Syrah ★★☆☆ ~ 950

Soft wood and white pepper, violets, vibrant red berries and orange peel arrest the nose. Samsara is full yet well-integrated with hints of plum and cherry, cloves, cinnamon and pepper. This wine is spectacular well-balanced and carries an exceptional fruit-driven palate. The whole bunch fermentation results in firm tannins and good acid which gives the wine an unbelievable length.

Stellenbosch - Annandale Shiraz ★★★★★ ~ 950

Deep ruby red with aromas of cedar, vanilla and liquorice with blackberry fruits, cassis, black cherry and violets. The palate has a soft entrance with lovely in-mouth flavours. Ripe, well-integrated tannin, balanced acidity with a persistent aftertaste.

Klein Rivier - Raka Biography ★★★★★ ~ 550

Clean, ruby colour with spicy aromas and hints of chocolate, coffee and black fruit is forthcoming on the bouquet. These aromas follow through on a silky full body palate, with dried plum and pepper flavours. Complete structure and a full body wine with a well balanced between tannins acidity leaves a lingering taste.

Stellenbosch - Brampton Shiraz ★★★ ~ 300

A deep ruby colour with a dense core, this structured wine has an attractive spectrum of flavours, from the first rich impressions of black cherries and ripe plums brushed by alluring floral notes, to integrated spicy clove and pepper nuances. Supporting oak spice on the finish enhances the primary fruit intensity.



Red wines

Cabernet Sauvignon

One of the most remarkable things about Cabernet Sauvignon is how much it tastes like Cabernet anywhere it is grown. Enjoy with your favourite steak and all tannins will disappear as it bonds with the protein in your meat.

Stellenbosch - Meerlust Cabernet Sauvignon ★★★★★ ~ 1150

Has an intense, vivid purple colour with slight gradation at the rim. On the nose the wine shows intense cassis, plum and classic cedar wood-cigar box notes with lifted dark fruit aromas. On the palate, the wine is full bodied and impressively structured. Intense blackcurrant and plum fruit bolstered by refined tannins and fresh natural acidity.

Stellenbosch - Webersburg Cabernet Sauvignon ★★★★★ ~ 700

Intense aromas of red berry fruit with gently dark chocolate and earthy notes. Fine, well-integrated tannins with layered dark fruit flavours that linger effortlessly on the finish.

Stellenbosch - Hartenberg Cabernet Sauvignon ★★★★★ ~ 800

Cigar box, lead pencil nose with cassis and cherry flavours. Juicy fruit with an elegant finish. Excellent with grilled ribeye steak. Classic match for richer savoury dishes, springbok fillet or black mushroom stroganoff.

Red wines

Cabernet Sauvignon

Robertson - Springfield Whole Berry Cabernet Sauvignon ★★☆☆ ~ 540

Whole berry maceration is followed by fermentation with natural yeasts, racking and one year's maturation in oak barrels. The result is a velvety wine with softer tannins and classical varietal characteristics. This traditional wine is unfiltered and unrefined, which may deposit sediment.

Stellenbosch - Asara Cabernet Sauvignon ★★★★★ ~ 380

Ripe, red cherries predominate on the nose. A fresh, juicy entry of red and dark berries on a mouth-watering palate of substance and weight. Sweet and sour berries and cherry tobacco to finish.

Stellenbosch - Klein Zalze Cellar Collection Cabernet Sauvignon ~ 260

This Cabernet shows lots of red fruit and crushed herbs on the bouquet. The palate follows the ripe cranberries and just enough tannin to give the typical Cabernet "backbone."



Admiration for Rembrandt



“Everything that art and the brush can achieve was possible for him and he was the greatest painter of the time and is still unsurpassed.”

- Gerard de Lairese (1707)

“Rembrandt is so deeply mysterious that he says things for which there are no words in any language. Rembrandt is truly a magician.... That is not an easy calling.”

-Vincent Van Gogh (in a letter to Theo Van Gogh in 1885)

Stolen & found

Three paintings were stolen on 21 December 2000 from the Swedish National Museum in Stockholm, including a small self-portrait of Rembrandt, painted on copper in 1630.

The armed robbers fled in a speedboat. Following a tip-off, Danish police found the self-portrait in a hotel room in Copenhagen in September 2005. The painting was undamaged and four people were arrested.



Red wine blends



Stellenbosch - Meerlust Rubicon ★★★★★ ~ 1 500

Very deep, youthful colour, and intense almost purple hue. Very classic Rubicon nose with violets, ripe plum, cedar wood and intense spiciness. A typical liquorice note and stony minerality also evident on the nose. Still youthful and intense, promising further maturation potential. The palate is full bodied, structured by beautifully sleek, ripe tannins which restrain the vibrant dark fruit typical of this vintage, giving the wine an opulent texture which is kept focused by the linear acidity. The wine lingers on the palate with creamy fruit mouth filling tannins.

Paarl - Avondale La Luna ★★★★★ ~ 1 600

This is a great wine of seamless elegance. Layers of mineral intense fruit, infused with gentle tannins are uplifted with fresh acidity uniting in a glorious fusion of full-bodied flavour. The dark purple colour infused with classic berry flavours and a hint of tobacco embody the vital elements so sought after in the great wines of Avondale.

Franschhoek - Boekenhoutskloof The Chocolate Block ★★★★★ ~ 750

The nose is exceptionally intense and complex with red berry fruit juxtaposed against a dark, brooding fruit compote and Swartland violets. The nose exudes aromas of raspberry, mulberry, blackberry, damson, dark chocolate and liquorice with whiffs of cloves, nutmeg and orange rind. The wine has a soft, smooth entry, a rich mid-palate and the abundance of red and black berry fruit on the nose follows through with balanced acidity and svelte cocoa powdery tannins. The wine has a long, lingering finish reminiscent of Swiss dark hazelnut chocolate.

Red wine blends

Franschhoek - Rupert and Rothschild Classique ~ 600

Inviting red blend with fresh raspberry aromas and pomegranate undertones.

This wine has a smooth balanced palate with lingering cranberry and cedarwood nuances.

Paarl - Glen Carlou Grand Classique ★★★★★ ~ 520

This complex yet elegant wine has a vibrant dark red colour with hints of a light plum skin; the nose exhibits dark fruits and some Christmas cake characters. It is smooth and supple on the palate with ripe, medium-full tannins; the wonderfully concentrated flavours exhibit ripe, plummy black fruits, some clove, cinnamon and notes of roasted coffee bean and mint. It has a lingering persistent medium finish.

Stellenbosch - Asara Cape Fusion ★★★ ~ 370

A fresh profusion of raspberry, mocha and dark berry show on the nose. Ripe red fruits persevere on the finish; a sweetly lingering ending contributed by Malbec.

South Africa - Saskia "Guess What?" Red House blend ~ 210

Any wine drinker with a good palate will know the name of the Saskia House Blend. Try it and see what you think.



Dessert wines

Enjoy these wines with cheese, dessert and chocolate.
Served by the glass - 50ml.

Paarl - Glen Carlou The Welder ~ 40

Natural sweet Chenin Blanc which has been hand crafted to deliver the warmth and pleasure in every drop of cape sunshine.

Montagu - Uitvlugt Muscadel ~ 35

A full sweet choice of red muscadel with delicious muscat flavours.



Port

Port is like bottled sunlight; sweet, warm and condensed into an impenetrably purple juice. Originating from grapes grown along the hot, precipitously steep slopes of the Douro Valley in Portugal. Served by the glass - 50ml.

Calitzdorp - Boplaas Cape Tawny Port ★★★★★☆ ~ 40

Creamy elegance infused with mocha-chocolate orange flavours, beautiful spicity balance after 12 years in old oak.

Swartland - Allesverloren Fine Old Vintage ★★★★★★ ~ 35

On the nose, complex aromas of alluring ripe dark fruit and glazed cherries with a hint of smokiness and honey. On the palate, full and rich with a combination of red and black berry as well as spice flavours, and a lingering finish of roasted hazelnuts and almonds.



The last self-portrait



The detail in this painting suggests that this is Rembrandt's last self portrait. The painter looks somewhat older, his double chin has sagged tremendously, the cheeks are more sunken and the gray hair longer.

His face is older but it does not show signs of mental decline, as some earlier authors have suggested.

Although part of his painting has been left at an early stage of completion, the painting as a whole is very impressive.

The hat is more like a lopsided turban than anything else. X-radiographs show he initially planned to give himself a white cap. In several other self portraits he painted over this white cap.

One gets the impression that Rembrandt painted what he saw in the mirror, deciding at a later stage how he would portray himself, re-painting and replacing the white hat he wore.





Saskia

FINE DINING RESTAURANT