



CLARISE SCIOCATTI-LANGEVELDT
Hazendal
Sémillon/
Sauvignon
Blanc 2017, R295,
hazendal.co.za

Clarise has built up an impressive CV, with international harvest stints in New Zealand, the USA, Australia and locally at Windmeul, Vilafonté, Avondale and eventually Eaglevlei, where she landed her first job as winemaker. In 2016 she was appointed as cellarmaster at the newly relaunched Hazendal Wine Estate and tasked with reinventing this 320-year-old farm's wine production, facilities and philosophy. Today, she produces ultra-premium wines and an MCC from small pockets of vines.

Her favourite wine at the moment is the Hazendal Sémillon / Sauvignon Blanc 2017, an elegant yet complex wine with an abundance of fruit, framed by a fresh minerality.



VANESSA SIMKISS
Highlands Road
Semillon 2017,
R??, highlands
roadestate.co.za

Vanessa has been involved with various

aspects of wine for decades, but it was in 2010, at the age of 42, that she started to study viticulture, oenology and cellar technology at Elsenburg College. She joined Highlands Road Estate in the Elgin Valley as resident winemaker in January 2015, and produced the first 100% Semillon for Highlands Road in 2017.

"The complexity that this varietal shows as it ages is unparalleled," Vanessa says, "and when it comes from cool climate zones it delivers beautifully, retaining a racy minerality that integrates well with the generous fruit flavours. Think white peach and prickly pear mingling with a little spicy nettle and finishing slightly savoury, a umami white wine."



LIEZA VAN DER MERWE
Merwida Family Vintners Chenin Blanc 2017
R120, merwida.com

"Wine has always played an important role in my life," says Lieza, "from driving the grape harvester with my dad as a child to exploring the international wine world and now getting to call Merwida my home as a winemaker." Her experience of working at wineries in California and Europe has led Lieza to believe that Chenin Blanc is the variety with which she can show the world what South Africa does best in terms of white wine.

The launch of the Merwida Family Vintners Chenin Blanc is a dream come true for Lieza. The 2017 vintage is a representation of hard work, a generational family love for wine, and a great example of what the Breede-kloof region has to offer.



TANIA KLEINTJES
Spier Farm House Organic
Chenin Blanc 2016
R188, spier.co.za

Tania joined Spier as assistant red-winemaker in 2007 and has been the organic winemaker since

2016. She is motivated to make the organic range - Spier's first estate wine - a success. "The conversion to organic practices from conventional winemaking has been a daunting but fulfilling journey," she says.

The Farm House Organic Chenin Blanc 2016 earned five stars in the *Platter's by Diners Club South African Wine Guide 2019*, the highest rating this authoritative guide awards. "This recognition makes all the hard work in the cellar and completing my Master's degree in Oenology worth it," says Tania. The Chenin is best enjoyed with slow-roasted pork to enhance the citrus marmalade bouquet, followed by honeycomb and subtle pear on the palate.



CHANDRÉ PETERSEN
Fish Hoek Merlot 2018
R43, fishhoekwines.com

During Chandré's first year at Stellenbosch University, studying BCom, she met a few wine-making students and was so intrigued that she transferred to the Department of Viticulture and Oenology. After graduating, she was accepted as a Cape Winemakers' Guild Protégé and worked with three foremost winemakers. Then she worked at Spier and Nederburg as assistant winemaker before being appointed at Accolade Wines in 2018 - as winemaking manager and winemaker for the Fish Hoek label.

Accolade Wines is Fairtrade-certified, and Fish Hoek Wines is its Fairtrade brand. The Merlot 2018 received a gold medal at the Michelangelo Awards last year. The rich ruby-red wine shows great complexity on the nose. There is a mixture of dark fruit, cigar box and mint aromas, and sweet-spicy undertones give it depth.



"MY JOURNEY INTO WINE"

Wine writer Tshepang Molisana is one of the fresh female voices coming to the fore in the wine industry. Here's how she got into wine.

"In 2012, I sat across the table from Anri Truter from Beyerskloof and Helgard van Schalkwyk from Lynx, finalists in the Diners Club's Winemaker of the Year Awards and I was inspired by their passion for wine. In 2013, I was a finalist for the Veritas Young Wine Writer of the Year awards, and one of the judges, Classic Wine magazine editor Cathryn Henderson, encouraged me to pursue wine writing.

Through Cathryn I met Gudrun Clarke, who introduced me to *The Sowetan* wine writer Len Maseko. Len told me to always say yes and always stay working.

I completed the Cape Wine Academy Advanced Brandy Course and eventually won the 2016 Veritas Young Wine Writer of the Year Award. Since then, I have completed my Wine Spirits and Education Trust (WSET) Level 2 Certificate. And I keep learning, working and saying yes."

PORTRAIT JENNA-LEIGH STOREY

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WOMEN IN WINE

We asked seven women winemakers to single out one of their own wines. These whites, a rosé and a red express not only the terroir but also their creators' skills, talent and hard work.



CARMEN STEVENS
Savi Sparkling
Rosé, R110,
carmalitast@
gmail.com

Carmen has been making wine for 23 years, having graduated in 1995 as South Africa's first black winemaker. Her most recent venture was making a range of premium-style wines under her own label for Naked Wines, a customer-funded wine business selling in the UK and US markets, and she is now launching her brand Carmen Stevens Wines in the local market.

Carmen chose her Savi Sparkling Rosé, a Sauvignon Blanc/Cabernet Franc blend, as the rest of her portfolio will only be launched soon. It is a vibrant sparkling wine with a soft yet zesty flair, made with the consumer in mind who's looking for a wine that is sophisticated in style without being intimidating.



SALÓME BUYS-VERMEULEN
Lozarn
Chardonnay 2018
R120, lozarn.co.za

Salóme is now in her 11th year in the wine industry.

She savours working solo, and is lucky that she can, as she is committed to making Lozarn an industry force with wines that consumers love and her peers respect.

For the maiden-vintage Lozarn Chardonnay, 80% of the berries came from what is known as "koffieklip" terroir in the Robertson region; after crushing, the wine was matured in oak barrels, mostly second-fill, for seven months. The remaining 20%, sourced from the clay soils of Bonnievale, were crushed and matured in stainless-steel tanks. The resulting blend offers classic Chardonnay aromas of citrus and butterscotch, leading to layers of the same on the palate, backed by a crisp freshness. Hints of flint complement the backbone from the oak.



COMPILED BY KAY-ANN VAN ROOYEN