

September '20 Wine Club Connoisseurs Case South Africa

Delivery Day: Thursday 10th September
6 bottles £125 (Subscription)
£130 (One off purchase)

Usual Retail Price per bottle

The current pandemic is affecting large parts of the wine industry, but South Africa, in particular, has been hit hard, having the sale of alcohol banned not once, but twice. What better way to support the industry than to get stuck into a few of their best bottles!

Graham Beck Brut Rose NV, Roberston 20

One of the foremost producers of Methode Cap Classique (MCC) – sparkling wine made in the Champagne method – Graham Beck are devoted to quality and consistency. Since the launch of their maiden MCC in 1991, their range of sparkling wines have been hailed by international icons such as Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama, as well as gaining an array of the industry's most prestigious awards.

Located in the Robertson region of South Africa, most of the work is done in the vineyard, where they strive for optimal ripeness and balance. "We focus on minimal intervention, allowing the authentic essence of the fruit and terroir to shine through in the final wine. The unique dry, cool climate of Robertson, combined with the rich limestone soils, produce wine with universal appeal and star quality," says cellar master, Pieter 'Bubbles' Ferreira. Aromas of raspberries, cherries and minerality. A lively, but fine mousse, with subtle red berry and lavender flavours, with a crisp acidity.

Drink Now-2022. Perfect with some Antipasti.

The Great SA Wine Co White 2018, Stellenbosch 20

The Great South African Wine Company strives to produce, interesting, compelling and thought-provoking wines that express the rich winemaking heritage of Stellenbosch. An absolutely blinding blend of Chenin Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon made in a way that pays homage to the best white Burgundies – grapes handled with kid gloves, a slow gentle fermentation and sensible use of French oak. This is perfectly composed with a generous and ambrosial palate full of lemongrass and grapefruit plus hints of honey and white peach. An absolute delight, and massively over delivering for its price point!

Drink Now-2023. Perfect with a Caesar Salad

BlankBottle Moment of Silence 2019, Wellington 20

Since its maiden vintage in 2007, M of S has changed a lot. Having started life as a blend of Wellington chardonnay, chenin blanc and viognier, it's morphed into a combo of chenin blanc, grenache blanc and viognier from five different vineyards from Boberg to Groenberg Mountain. While previously all components were vinified conventionally and aged in used barrels; now some parts are made with skin maceration, and Pieter uses a combination of used barrels (of various sizes), amphorae and concrete egg for ageing. All of this adds complexity and gives him greater control over the final blend. The results, with each new vintage, continue to enthrall us - as does the fantastic value that this wine still offers, more than 10 vintages in. It comes

across like a fancy southern Rhone white with a splash of Condrieu. It's lush, generous and honeyed but with a lively clarity and tension which makes it feel quite sophisticated. It is, we think, BLANKbottle at its very best. Stunning, all rounder there is nothing you can fault in this wine. The 2019 shows less intensity than the 2018, but is by no means any less delicious, maintaining all of it's style and swagger. Aromas of candied lemon, cooked apple and mango with a core of minerality. Soft and voluptuous, it has a lovely ripeness and a fleshy, creamy mouthfeel, which leads to a perfect tangy freshness giving some zip to its otherwise mellow feel.

Drink Now-2023. Perfect with Roast Pork.

Keermont Merlot 2017, Stellenbosch

25

Most of you will be familiar with the names of winemaker Alex Starey and Keermont - the estate we've gone on record as saying is the best Stellenbosch property to have emerged in the past 20 years. The Keermont Merlot 2017 uses only the best estate Merlot fruit from vineyard parcels between 250m and 400m above sea level in the valley between the Stellenbosch and Helderberg mountain ranges. Small batches of grapes are specifically selected according to ripeness, harvested by hand and vinified separately. The wine then spends 20 months maturing in seasoned French oak before being bottled by hand. It is, without a doubt, one of the best Merlots we've ever tasted. Full of chocolatey gorgeouslyness

Drink Now-2027. Perfect with a Medium Rare Fillet Steak.

The Great SA Wine Co Red 2017, Stellenbosch

20

Carl produces his Great SA Wine Co red from specially selected high-lying Stellenbosch vineyards which provide concentrated, sun-ripened fruit character and a complexity of flavour - think graphite, brambles and violets - along with a brightness and freshness, which, though partly to do with the altitude, is more to do with Carl's favouring of whole-berry fermentations and low-intervention winemaking - wild yeast ferments, minimal sulphur and no filtering. These might well be classed as natural wines, but natural wines of a special sort - not wild and funky but vivid, expressive and expertly done. It's so refreshing to have a big style of red wine that doesn't tip the abv charts and with the 2017, Carl has nailed it! There's a beautiful piquant fragrance to this - earthy red fruits, green pepper and green peppercorns. Red currants, hedgerow fruits and brambles and a gentle leafy sweetness. It's drinking now and can only look better with time in bottle.

Drink Now-2025. Perfect with a Meaty Curry.

Badenhorst Family Red 2017, Swartland

30

From three generations of winemaking stock, Adi was destined to be the best. Time in the Rhône, New Zealand and as winemaker at Rustenberg polished his talent before he (along with his cousin) brought his humble vineyard in the Paardeberg complete with gnarled vines and a run-down winery. He is now one of the leading players in 'The Swartland Revolution', a group of pioneering young winemakers, including Eben Sadie, Chris Mullineux and Marc Kent, making wines from the amazing raw materials that are part of the Swartland's grape-growing legacy - a legacy that dates back centuries. Silk-fine raspberry, red cherry and blueberry fruits. The palate is so supple, no tannins at all to begin with - they emerge gradually and gracefully and are fine yet firm by the end. It's juicy, a little spicy, a little herbal, with a purity and salty terroir minerality giving the impression of granite. Very refreshing. Savoury yet lissomly fruity and dewy fresh.

Perfect with Roast Lamb