

QUARTER: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2020

SPECIAL DISCOVERIES (12 bottles - 3 whites, 3 reds, 2 of each) R1656.00 inc

NEIL ELLIS Groenekloof Sauvignon Blanc 2019

R124 per bottle

In 1984 Neil Ellis bought in grapes from other growers' vineyards and produced wine in rented cellar space. These grapes were sourced in the Stellenbosch district and meant a lot of nosing around to find the good stuff. His vision entailed finding vineyards where varieties would excel and best express a particular style of wine reflective of their environment. Today, other regions come into play, and this wine hails from Darling. Bright tropical aromatics, with subtle herbaceous undertones. The palate is elegant with delicately detailed sweet tropical fruits and a lively acidity, refined minerality and a poised, textured palate. Athletic and crisp, with a long aftertaste. Serve with fresh fish and summer salads.

CATHERINE MARSHALL Jono's Wave Chenin Blanc 2017

R146 per bottle

Quote: "When we started on our wine journey from humble origins in 1997, we have always held the view that our intention was to produce a range of unique wines of excellence and, above all, to have fun doing it. As custodians of such an ancient craft, a balanced, holistic, creative and respectful approach reflects harmony and character in our wines." **Catherine Marshall**. Grapes were selected from a single vineyard in Elgin on Bokkeveld Shales and Hutton soils in Stellenbosch. 40% was decanted to old 225 litre French casks and the remaining 60% was fermented cold in stainless steel. Bright, fresh sweet melon and white peach top notes with fleshy ripe nectarines on the core and crisp green apple acidity fans out the tail on the finish. A rich, mid palate of lanoline adds depth and complexity to the wet granite stone texture. A wonderful match with chicken pieces baked with pineapple.

PAINTED WOLF Peleton Blanc 2018

R130 per bottle

Jeremy and Emma Borg established their wine business in 2007, after having worked in Botswana on a Game Lodge amongst other forays (Jeremy is a good chef), and upon their return, establishing a wine cellar and a conservation arm. Spotted Hyaenas are the inspiration behind Painted Wolf wines. This lovely wine is a blend of Chenin Blanc 70% | Viognier 10% | Grenache Blanc 20%. Grapes sourced from a number of vineyards in Paarl, Stellenbosch and in the Swartland. All the grapes were handpicked and whole-bunch pressed and barrel fermented. Both wild and commercial yeast strains are used. Southern French/ Rhone white blends serve as inspiration for this wine. The wine has bright exotic flavours like baked quince and pears with hints of spice. Loads of fruit, good acid balance and length. Goes with seafood, pork and chicken dishes, especially those with a South East Asian feel.

NEIL ELLIS Aenigma Red 2018

R124 per bottle

In 1984 Neil Ellis bought in grapes from other growers' vineyards and produced wine in rented cellar space. These grapes were sourced in the Stellenbosch district and meant a lot of nosing around to find the good stuff. His vision entailed finding vineyards where varieties would excel and best express a particular style of wine reflective of their environment. This wine is a blend of Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon, and has a lovely melange of red and black fruits on the nose. The flavour is all juicy stone fruits like black plums and fresh red cherries, with subtle oak balance. Poised on the brink of Old World and New World in style, but the most important is that it is eminently drinkable. Serve with fried lamb chops with a rosemary gravy.

MURATIE Melck's Blended Red 2017

R156 per bottle

Tucked into the exquisite Knorhoek Valley north of Stellenbosch, Muratie Wine Estate, under the stewardship of Rijk Melck and his family, is one of the jewels of the Stellenbosch wine route. It dates back to 1685, making it one of our oldest wine estates. This is a blend of 61% Merlot, 18% Shiraz, 12% Mourvedre, 5% Pinot Noir & 4% Petit Verdot. The grapes are hand harvested and processed in a combination of stainless steel tanks and open fermenters and is elegantly oaked (16 months in second and third fill French oak barrels). Super aroma of blackcurrant laced with raspberry. A firm composition of Stellenbosch red grapes, deep and sturdy. Thick fruit core, great balance, earthiness and length. Drinking well now, but will improve until 2027. A rich beef stew will work well.

ZEVENWACHT Syrah 2018**R148 per bottle**

Zevenwacht is a modern wine farm with a 300-year history. Owned by the Johnson Family, there are two prime farming locations providing the grapes for Zevenwacht. The home vineyard on the Estate's panoramic 450 hectare maritime influenced property, supplies the majority of them. Zevenrivieren, situated at the crest of the Helshoogte Pass, provides winemaker Hagen Viljoen with a fine selection of grapes. Dark black-ruby colour, showing warmer climate black cherry on the nose. Sweet cherry on palate, plush tannins, grippy but balanced. Hints of char and roses add to the intrigue, and the flavour is deep and juicy – a super Shiraz that will mature well until 2025+, but if you want to drink it now, serve it with braaied boerewors and chops, or lamb casserole.

SMALL PARCELS (12 bottles – 2 whites, 2 reds, 3 of each) R1767.00 inc**CALLENDER PEAK Winterhoek Sauvignon Blanc 2018****R141 per bottle**

The Callender Peak wines offer a purity and freshness that only comes with cool climate viticulture. Expertly handled in the winery by Donovan Rall, he has managed to express real character in the wine with good weight and intensity. This is a unique wine of real class. Due to its elevation and the population of skilled agricultural businesses, we believe Ceres Plateau is a WO that will become more and more important in the South African scene as time goes on. Very long cold winters and cooler than normal ripening periods causes these grapes up in the mountains to ripen up to two months later than regions like Stellenbosch. 50% fermented in tank and 50% racked to second and third fill french barriques. Gorgeous depth of flavour, tropical fruity middle, good acidity.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE Laing Groendruif 2017**R150 per bottle**

Henk Laing's farm, Trekpoort, is situated on a stretch of land between Lamberts Bay and Clanwilliam, on the Skurberg Mountain overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Laing has a deep understanding of this land, the vines, the weather, the animals and fynbos, having walked these soils during harvest with his father, decades ago. The metre-tall bush vines have survived 61 years of heat, red sand and a scarcity of water and still generate grapes that produce intense, weighty wines with character in spades. The vines, planted in 1956, are planted in red sand on clay, between wheat fields, apricot trees, rooibos tea bushes and fynbos. Its proximity to the ocean, the hot days with cool nights and the age of the bush vines all contribute to ripeness and naturally high acidity. Nettle, lemon zest, flint and a touch of waxy grapefruit with faint floral hints on the nose. Grapefruit zest, lees and a gentle dusty flint element can be found in the mouth. Crisp, bright, taut and focused with a slightly nervy acid note apparent. Lovely freshness throughout but there is a confident breadth and assurance to the wine. Long, rich finish.

BONNIEVALE Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Ltd Release**R142 per bottle**

Bonnievale promise delightful wines that consistently exceed expectations. Their skilled winemakers can select the best grapes from a large expanse of vineyards, accessing an amazing diversity of the area's varied terroir. They bottle only the very best of each vintage, assuring perfect quality. On the aroma, the wine displays beautiful, clean red fruit, notably raspberry, supported by blackcurrants and hints of liquorice. The juicy fruit carries through on the palate, which has ripe tannins that provide structure and depth to the wine. The eighteen months in French and American oak delivered a balanced and well integrated wine with a lingering aftertaste. Drink now or keep to 2025.

CATHERINE MARSHALL Amatra Merlot 2017**R156 per bottle**

Quote: "When we started on our wine journey from humble origins in 1997, we have always held the view that our intention was to produce a range of unique wines of excellence and, above all, to have fun doing it. As custodians of such an ancient craft, a balanced, holistic, creative and respectful approach reflects harmony and character in our wines." Catherine Marshall. The philosophy behind this wine: To create a complex, mouth filling wine from ripened clusters with purple fruit opulence and restrained tannin structure in cool climate conditions. Cathy sure succeeded here – it is opulent, yet savoury and dry at the same time. Delicious with any venison dish.

RARE REDS (6 bottles) R1572.00 inc**PAINTED WOLF Mourvedre 2019****R262 per bottle**

Jeremy and Emma Borg established their wine business in 2007, after having worked in Botswana on a Game Lodge amongst other forays (Jeremy is a good chef), and upon their return, establishing a wine cellar and a conservation arm. Spotted Hyaenas are the inspiration behind Painted Wolf wines. The grapes for this wine were sourced from an organic farm in Malmesbury. Jeremy loves to work with the Rhone varietals, and this is one of the mainstays. It is the finest Mourvedre I have tasted and quickly reserved enough for our members immediately, as only 1,290 bottles were made. It has a youthful, very dark, crimson-ruby colour. The aroma is captivating, with black berry fruits, floral tones and cold wood smoke. It has an intense flavour, muscular structure and supple tannins. It is one for the collector, and needs another five years in your cool wine cellar before you broach it.

Regards, CAROLINE RILLEMA**(Purveyor of fine wine since 1979)**