

# Why Spier wine hits the mark almost every time

There really is something for everyone at Spier — everyday good quality and value along with icon wines, limited editions and special occasion treats, certified vegan and organic wines, low and no alcohol options, and wine in cans.

No wonder Platter's refers to the Spier wine portfolio as having the "indulgent lavishness of an 11-course meal, with every predilection catered for".

It takes a big operation to produce such a wide range and to do it at a consistent level of quality across the board, a sto-



**A Vine Time**  
SAM VENTER

ry told by the more than 1,700 awards listed on the Spier website — among them five Platter's 5\* wines this year and last year and the 2022 Editor's Award for Winery of the Year, international awards for SA wine producer of the year, regularly one of the most successful producers in the Veritas Awards and Trophy Wine Show ... the list goes on.

A recent tasting with Anthony Kock, maker of Spier's white wines, was an interesting journey through some of the courses of the Spier "menu"

of wines.

Spier Cap Classique Brut 2019 (€R159) is well-priced for a classy dry bubbly with fruity freshness and vibrancy, most suitable for a special occasion or just an everyday celebration of life.

The Spier Signature range is SA's top seller in the R60-R100 bracket, and it's easy to see why — a collection of the most well-known white and red varieties, made in classic style for a broad spectrum of tastes. You really can't go wrong here for wines that deliver substance

and complexity at a reasonable price (and the best-kept secret is the juicy and well-rounded cab sauv-merlot-shiraz blend).

Then there's the Seaward range (about R110/R125) showcasing the fruit purity and concentration of grapes from ocean-influenced vineyards in areas such as Durbanville and Darling, with characteristic maritime minerality a common thread.

Spier Seaward chardonnay 2021 blends stainless steel tank- and barrel-fermented

ing eight months on the lees to enhance texture and body. The result is elegant, subtle, with lots of citrus and quince flavour woven through with gently oak-influenced nuttiness and vanilla in a supporting role.

Winemaker Anthony says the Seaward Shiraz is his personal "house wine", easy to enjoy on its own or with food, with fragrant dark fruit and subtle spice, velvety texture and soft tannins. There is a concentrated fruit and herbaceous flavour, with a touch of smokiness.

The Creative Block blends are Spier's most-awarded range, led by the superb Creative Block 5 2018, winner of the 2021 Veritas Vertex award for the highest-rated wine in the competition.

The Bordeaux-style blend (€R180) just does everything that a powerful, balanced blend of cab sauv, merlot, cab franc, petit verdot and Malbec should, with complex layers of intense blackberry, cherry and blackcurrant fruits supported by cedar, dark chocolate and fennel. It is really enjoyable

now and well worth ageing a few more years.

The Spier 21 Gables wines are similarly multi-awarded, celebrating the architectural heritage of the farm's 21 historic gables, and the winemakers' art in single varieties from special vineyards.

The 21 Gables cabernet sauvignon 2019 (R320) is a classic Stellenbosch Helderberg cab, with full-bodied power and elegance, and vibrant fruit interwoven with spice and seamless tannins. This is another superb wine.