

2023 FNB SA Top 10 Sauvignon Blanc winners revealed

South Africa's best Sauvignon Blancs are not just about fresh fruit flavours and aromas. According to the judges of the 2023 FNB Sauvignon Blanc SA Top 10, wine lovers should also try Sauvignon Blancs from older vintages and wooded styles. Seven of the winning wines are from the 2022 vintage, which shows that South African Sauvignon Blanc can age well.

Sauvignon Blanc SA announced the winners on Wednesday, 25 October at Kleine Zalze in Stellenbosch.



Source: Supplied

This year's Top 10 (in alphabetical order) are:

- De Grendel Koetshuis 2022 (wooded)
- Diemersdal Sauvignon Blanc Reserve 2023 (unwooded)
- Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2022 (wooded)
- Le Grand Domaine Our Origin The Pledge Sauvignon Blanc 2022 (unwooded)
- Nitida Sauvignon Blanc 2023 (unwooded)
- Spier Seaward Sauvignon Blanc 2023 (unwooded)
- Stark-Condé Round Mountain Sauvignon Blanc 2022 (wooded)
- Steenberg The Black Swan 2022 (unwooded)
- Tokara Reserve Collection Elgin Sauvignon Blanc 2022 (wooded)
- Zorgvliet Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2022 (unwooded)

This year's judging panel was convened by Cape Wine Master Dr Winifred Bowman and included the international wine judge and wine writer Fiona McDonald, Johann Fourie, head winemaker of Benguela Cove, Morgan Steyn, winemaker of De Grendel, Gregory Mutambe, sommelier of Rust en Vrede, as well as two protégés, Mahalia Kotjane, assistant winemaker of Lievland, and Shanice du Preez from De Grendel.

"This year's Top 10 is versatile in style and origin," says RJ Botha, Chairman of Sauvignon Blanc SA. "Four of the top ten winners are wooded, making this a style to look out for, with a good understanding of oak that gives these wines complexity and depth. The 2022 vintage has developed well over the past year, in line with our panel's recommendation last year to age those a little longer."



Source: Supplied

"Out of the 169 wines entered by 106 producers, South African Sauvignon competes comfortably on the world stage. Many thanks to our partners FNB and Ever Solutions for understanding our industry and their contribution to our success," says Botha.

This year's competition, the only competition fully dedicated to Sauvignon Blanc, was once again supported by the Top 10 title partner, FNB, and platinum partner, Ever Solutions.

Stephan Claassen, provincial head of FNB of Business in the Western and Eastern Cape, congratulated the 2023 FNB Sauvignon Blanc SA Top 10 winners and acknowledged the importance of the agriculture sector as a pillar of stability and growth, even during times of uncertainty, with the wine industry being no exception.

"Although the aim is to select the Top 10, we recognise and celebrate all the finalists for their part in the ongoing establishment of the wine industry in South Africa. FNB Business is a proud supporter of the wine industry and continues to encourage the local and international development of this sector," Claassen says.

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