

## **South Africa 2019**

### **Special Report**

**by Tim Atkin MW**

#### **Botanica The Mary Delany Collection Chenin Blanc 2018**

*Citrusdal Mountain (13.1%)*

Fans of this brilliant Chenin Blanc - and I put my hand up here - will be disappointed to learn that the drought vintage cut yields by two thirds to 1,675 bottles. Sourced from Henk Laing's vineyard on the Citrusdal Mountain, it's refined, mineraly and white pepper scented, with a whisper of oak, some pear and lemon zest and remarkable palate length. 2020-28



#### **Botanica The Mary Delany Collection Semillon 2018**

*Elgin (12.5%)*

Performing a swan song in 2018, this is the last vintage of Botanica Semillon, as it's "so difficult to sell", according to Ginny Povall. Blending grapes from Elgin and the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, it's a smart wine that should be leaping off the shelves. Long, elegant and very focused, with honeysuckle and green herb notes and good ageing potential. 2021-26



#### **Botanica The Mary Delany Collection Pinot Noir 2018**

*Western Cape (12.9%)*

Combining fruit from the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge and Stellenbosch's Devon Valley, this is the best Pinot Noir I've had yet from Ginny Povall. Pale, elegant and refined with rose petal and wild strawberry notes, focused acidity, elegant tannins and way less new wood than in the past. 2020-24



#### **Botanica Big Flower Cabernet Franc 2017**

*Stellenbosch (14.31%)*

Ginny Povall makes this delightful Cabernet Franc from two clones, two blocks and two soil types on her painterly organic farm. Balanced, refined and long, this has red berry and cassis flavours, sculpted tannins, subtle oak and a refreshing, tapering finish. 2020-27



#### **Botanica Big Flower Cabernet Sauvignon 2017**

*Stellenbosch (15%)*

The Big Flower Cabernet comes from one of South Africa's most densely planted vineyards at 10,000 plants per hectare. Suitably rich, tannic and compact, it's a wine that needs time to soften in bottle, but is stylishly oaked with scented damson and blackcurrant fruit and vivid acidity. 2022-29



#### **Botanica Arboretum 2017**

*Stellenbosch (14.5%)*

Arboretum comes from Ginny Povall's beautiful home vineyard in Devon Valley and is a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated Bordeaux style red blend. Grippy, serious and dense, with firm, layered tannins and youthful plum and damson fruit. 2020-28



#### **Botanica The Mary Delany Collection Chardonnay 2018**

*Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge (13.81%)*

Ginny Povall sources her Chardonnay from La Vierge on the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge and made just three barrels in 2018. Smoky, toasty and showing quite a bit of oak at the moment, this has the texture, fruit intensity and acidity to come together in bottle. 2020-25

