

RAISE *your glass*

Kim Maxwell on our rich and satisfying Cabernets



Cabernet Sauvignon is just short of 12% of SA's total vineyard plantings, making it our second-most planted red grape. *The Christian Eedes Cabernet Sauvignon Report*, released in May 2013, is a lineup of the 10 'front runners' in Cabernet, as tasted blind by wine judge Eedes, wine retailer Roland Peens and restaurant beverage manager James Pietersen.

The 2013 top wine is a deserved five-star scorer. La Bri 2009 (R95), below right, shows Cabernet's feminine side in soft tannins, blackcurrants and white pepper. Another five-star winner, Le Riche Reserve 2010 (R300), is too concentrated for my taste. Four or four-and-a-half stars go to Graham Beck The Coffeestone Cabernet 2011, Rickety Bridge Paulina's Reserve 2010, Rudera 2011 and Waterford 2009. Also in this category, Guardian Peak Lapa 2010 and Rust en Vrede 2010 are sweeter, bolder and fruit-forward.

My favourite Cabernets are classic and restrained: the minty, red-berried Thelema 2009 (R175) and Springfield Méthode Ancienne 2006 (R230), which shows Cab's great ageing ability, in a class of its own.

Rust en Vrede's Coenie Snyman says they sell double the volume of Cabernet to Shiraz in Jozi, whereas Shiraz is the bigger seller in their Stellenbosch tasting room. Waterford also produces Shiraz and Cabernet, and Cabernet is the undisputed Joburg king.

