



BLACKWATER WINES

Paarl - South Africa

Background

Blackwater Wines is the brainchild of Francois Haasbroek, a man who is unequivocally part of the bright future of South African wine. Francois worked in Stellenbosch, Sonoma, and Marlborough before launching Blackwater in 2010. If we had to summarize his winemaking ethos it would be "back to basics." No tricks, nothing fancy – just really sound winemaking. Francois bases his wines on grapes with natural acidity and skin tannin, not layers of oak with countless additions and manipulations. He purchases his fruit from growers all over the Western Cape. This model of outsourcing the viticulture (what they would call 'negociant' winemaking in France) is a one that most of our South African producers employ. It allows Francois to have a broad portfolio of wines from places like Paarl, Bot River, and the Swartland, and really showcases the diversity of his country's terroir. His wines also run the gamut from inexpensive, easy-drinkers to more serious, sophisticated wines. If you're looking for consistent quality at a great price, Blackwater is the answer.

Highlights

- 1** Blackwater Wines puts a new-wave spin on time-honored South African styles of wine.
- 2** The classy, clean packaging of the 'core' series reflects the traditional nature of wines, even on the rare varietal offerings (i.e. Palomino).
- 3** The 'playing card' series makes for excellent BTG pours and retails under \$20.

Wines

The Playing Card Series SRP \$17

These three fun and easy-drinking wines include Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, and Grenache Rosé. The quality for price is unbeatable here.



The Core Series SRP \$28-40

These are the wines that really showcase what Francois is capable of. Grapes include Chenin Blanc, Palomino, Cabernet Franc, Cinsaut, Carignan, Grenache, Pinot Noir, and Syrah.

Ethos

Viticulture is a mix of conventional, dry-farmed, and organic. Winemaking is always with native yeast.

Packaging



Experimental

Traditional

Press

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This 'unlikely hero of the South African New Wave' deserves your attention immediately.

- Brandon Kerne, MW