

CELLARING NOTES

Each year the winemaking team reviews the previous 10 releases of Cape Mentelle's red wines. These notes represent their frank and honest assessment based purely on the wine in the glass on the day – previous reputations and reviews upon release are not taken into consideration – we're tough markers!

Our Star System ***** Outstanding **** Excellent *** Good ** Moderate * OK

Vintage	Cabernet Merlot Trinders	Rating	Cellaring Term
1998	A rich and ripe style. Still with a hint of truffles along with fresh bay leaf and redcurrants. A finely structured, tight palate with a plush mouthfeel still showing good acid for longevity.	****	Now – 2014
1999	Stock cubes and a malty, molasses nose. A soft, savoury wine with a grainy, chalky finish.	**	Drink now
2000	Alluring red berry fruits with a little menthol. Briary fruits on the fresh and lifted palate with an earthy, dusty finish.	***	Now – 2012
2001	Fresh ripe blackcurrants and couverture chocolate on the nose with a dusting of dry herbs. The palate is concentrated, plush and full of brooding cassis and choc mint framed by fine, firm tannins.	*****	Now – 2020
2002	Vanillin oak, very fresh red berries and blood plums greet the nose. The savoury palate is full and textured with grainy tannin.	****	Now – 2014
2003	This is an unsung hero, reflective of a warm vintage. Ripe prunes, dried fruit and liquorice. Bold and youthful with a generously fruity mid-palate and a thick, masculine tannin structure.	****	Now – 2018
2004	Aromatic complexity on the nose – bay leaves and tobacco with violet floral tones. The sophisticated palate has a nice evenness to it and is velvety and well integrated.	**** 1/2	Now – 2020
2005	Bright and fresh with blueberries and mulberries and savoury cedar. A generous, voluptuous palate which is still young with great aging potential, still a babe.	****	Now – 2018
2006	In the redcurrant spectrum with floral violets and fennel. Bright and light, focussed by acid and the svelte, slatey tannins give great length.	**** 1/2	Now – 2018
2007	Seductive, concentrated black fruits and dark couverture. A different style of cabernet merlot with the highest percentage of merlot so far in the blend's history.	*****	Now – 2024
Vintage	Cabernet Sauvignon	Rating	Cellaring Term
1995	The savoury characters are slatey and earthy with bitumen and soy. The remarkably sweet, rich palate is complex and evolved, conjuring up spent coffee bean and mocha.	***	Now – 2012
1996	A masculine wine with aromas of waxy, antique furniture, roasted beetroot and fresh tobacco. Retaining a pronounced structure with a firm, dry finish.	***	Now – 2010
1998	Green peppercorns and menthol with brambley fruit and savoury liquorice. A rich, dense palate showing good length of fruit.	***	Now – 2012
1999	Rhubarb and blackberry crumble with toasted walnuts but also meaty, beefstock aromas with roasted marrow bone. The palate is tight with a slatey acidity.	*** 1/2	Now – 2014
2000	Primary fruit characters – thick black fruit and cedar, complemented by choc mint ice cream. Still travelling well with fruit concentration and sweetness on the palate.	*** 1/2	Now – 2016
2001	An opulent cabernet. An upfront, fruit-driven nose with layers of dense berry fruit, strong mocha and bittersweet chocolate. This small berry cabernet is ripe and tannic with muscular, chalky tannins, it will last a long time.	**** 1/2	Now – 2020
2002	Classic Wallcliffe Vineyard cabernet which oozes cassis, mint, violet and bay leaf. A complex, even palate with a super-velvety tannin structure.	**** 1/2	Now – 2020
2003	A complex nose of oak spiciness and tarry bitumen leads to a palate of fresh fruit, shitake mushrooms and caramel with wet slate/graphite. There is a steely acidity with fine, firm tannin.	****	Now – 2020
2004	Generously fruited with blueberries, cherries and ripe blackcurrant along with Dutch cocoa. A lot going on with the perfectly balanced palate complementing the aromas and finishing with gravelly tannins.	*****	Now – 2024
2005	Bright fruit character, blackcurrant and mulberry. Lots of bay leaf and subtle allspice characters. Great texture on the middle palate is inviting and has a silky, elegant and balanced mouthfeel.	*****	Now – 2026

“CLASSIC WALLCLIFFE VINEYARD CABERNET WHICH OZZES CASSIS, MINT, VIOLET AND BAY LEAF”

Vintage	Shiraz	Rating	Cellaring Term
1998	Roast lamb, gravy and coriander seed. On the palate there is a real earthy, peatiness with underlying strawberries and cream.	**	Drink Now
1999	The floral and morello cherry nose also shows crushed fennel and cinnamon, with a lovely sweetness on the palate.	** 1/2	Drink Now
2000	Still looking youthful with darker fruit and marshmallow sweetness. The inky palate is a great balance of sweet fruit and a savoury finish with supple tannin.	*** 1/2	Now – 2014
2001	An Indian spice shop, garam masala and coriander with prunes and chocolate. An evolved and meaty palate.	** 1/2	Drink Now
2002	Blueberries, mocha and Chinese five spice. The sexy palate is savoury and peppery and developing well.	****	Now – 2014
2003	Our last shiraz under cork, a thick, very plush wine with black pepper, blood plums and dried currants. The palate is ripe, sweet and leathery.	****	Now – 2014
2004	A balanced nose, savoury with a good generosity of fruit. A tarry palate with a cardamom, savoury spice finish. A real core of fruit with a good backbone to continue aging.	****	Now – 2016
2005	Bright, sweet jubes, liqueur cherry, dark chocolate and coconut (Cherry Ripe). A rich and layered palate with cocoa powder tannin.	**** 1/2	Now – 2018
2006	Fresh as a daisy! Blueberry, peppercorns, nutmeg and sweet spice. The restrained, tight palate is focussed and very primary, showing excellent potential to age.	**** 1/2	Now – 2020
2007	This leaps out of the glass – a bright, engaging shiraz with subtle violet and florals on one side and generous sweet fruit on the other. The unctuous palate is intense and concentrated with fine, savoury tannins.	*****	Now – 2022
Vintage	Wallecliffe Shiraz	Rating	Cellaring Term
2003	Very Bounty and strawberry jam with a good spiciness behind of sweet freshly tanned leather, aniseed and cardamon. A real aged character starting to develop on the fleshy, robust palate which is savoury and firm.	**** 1/2	Now – 2020
2004	Vibrant and youthful, fresh blueberries, dense maraschino cherries and Chinese five spice on the nose. The thick, tight palate is focused and still very young and has rich, dark couverture chocolate alongside savoury tobacco.	*****	Now – 2024
Vintage	Zinfandel	Rating	Cellaring Term
2000	Florentine biscuits, nuttiness, chocolate, cinnamon and candied orange peel – must be zin! Also a lovely wild herb background. The palate is still fresh with nice acid.	*** 1/2	Drink Now
2001	Serious zin. Vanilla, coconut, sweet tobacco and molasses. A leatheriness on the palate is textured, even silky, while retaining bright fruit.	****	Drink Now
2002	Rum and raisin – or more specifically Cadbury’s Old Jamaica, with fresh prunes and sandalwood. A density of fruit on the front palate with a fresh, bright finish.	***	Now – 2014
2003	Brimming with sweet fruit, rich Cherry Ripe, malt and prune juice. A lush, plump palate with lifted notes of spice.	*** 1/2	Drink Now
2004	A lusty zin with a burlesque curvaceousness! Aniseed, pepper, cloves, soy and five spice on the nose. A dense palate, thick with bright blackberries. Perfect with lamb shanks.	****	Now – 2014
2005	A classy zin, with cinnamon, caramel, dried fig and dense fruitcake. The palate is plush and inviting showing good balance and a polished finish.	**** 1/2	Now – 2014
2006	This cooler year is displaying a finesse not normally associated with zinfandel. Aromas of lifted violets, jasmine, roasted marshmallows and quince paste. The focussed, youthful palate is tight and savoury.	**** 1/2	Now – 2016
2007	Lashings of ripe plums, brandy snaps and fruit compote. The palate has a rich density of summer berry and vanilla bean, with long, grainy tannins. A cracking zinfandel.	*****	Now – 2018