



Award-winning winemaker André van Rensburg's 2016 vintage at Vergelegen was his nineteenth on the estate. With an unwavering attention to detail and a hunger for excellence, creativity and innovation, he is a self-proclaimed 'perfectionist'. The combination of a passionate longstanding team, solid determination and dogged enthusiasm ensure that Vergelegen's winemaking philosophy is adhered to: there must be harmony between the old and the new.





IMAGES This page – Top – Vergelegen Homestead. Middle – Winemaker Andre Van Rensburg (centre) with team. Bottom – Vergelegen Winery and mountains. Opposite page – Vergelegen garden and Stables Bistrocastle.

Since 1700, Vergelegen (meaning "situated far away") has been a historic estate in Somerset West. in the Western Cape province of South Africa. It has been home to some of the world's great explorers and visionaries, who each in their own way have helped shape Vergelegen to what it is today: a world-class wine estate. Extending over 3000 hectares, from the banks of the Lourens River to the rock faces of the Hottentots Holland Mountains, Vergelegen is one of South's Africa's most prominent wineries. This is reflected by the fact its wines have earned more than 200 local and international awards since 1999 including the coveted Château Pichon Longueville.

In 1989, an extensive project was undertaken to re-establish the vineyards following intensive climatic and soil tests. A detailed master plan was drawn up for the re-development of the farm and in 1992, an impressive, multi-levelled, sunken hilltop winery was built and opened by none other than Baron Eric de Rothschild, owner of Château Lafite in Bordeaux. The

Vergelegen is an important estate in the area and environmental conservation is of key importance to the region and South Africa



design of the winery is unlike any previously built in South Africa and is based on the principles of gentle handling, visual control and natural gravity flow. This was undoubtedly the start of Vergelegen's renaissance. Boasting a rich array of twentyone different soil types, some of which are among the most ancient agricultural soils in the world, vines have mainly been established on clovelly, glenrosa and pinedene soils. These soils are characterised by a high clay content, ensuring good water retention during the critical early-Summer ripening stage.

The unique combination of all the elements that make up the terroir of Vergelegen is key to the production of its signature style of wines. The growing climate is mild due to the close proximity to the chilly Atlantic Ocean at False Bay six kilometres away, with vineyard sites ranging in altitude between 140m and 310m above sea level and slopes facing north to northwest and south to south-east.

Vergelegen's unique and rich vineyard holdings allow awardwinning winemaker, André van Rensburg, to pursue his hunger for excellence, creativity and innovation. A self-proclaimed 'perfectionist', van Rensburg's unwavering attention to detail and his passionate, longstanding team have ensured that Vergelegen's winemaking philosophy of "harmony between the old and the new" has never faltered in the nineteen years that he's been leading the winemaking efforts.

Vergelegen is renowned for producing elegant, handcrafted wines and has a widely respected reputation

IMAGES Bottom left – Cellar door. Top right – Gardens. Bottom right – Estate Vineyard and winery.









In terms of grape varieties,
Vergelegen is planted with classic
international varieties such as
Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and
Chardonnay for the whites and
Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet
Franc, Malbec, Petit Verdot and
Shiraz for the reds. Vergelegen's
flagship wine is the Vergelegen
G.V.B. Red, a structured and well
balanced single vineyard blend
of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot,
Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.

Aside from excellence in the production of its wines, Vergelegen has been acknowledged as South Africa's first Wine and Biodiversity Champion. With only 149 hectares taken up with vineyard plantings, the rest of the estate has been ringfenced for environmental conservation. Situated in one of the richest floral regions of the world, the

Vergelegen estate is home to some of the Cape's most pristine natural flora and fauna. The importance and scale of the conservation project undertaken at Vergelegen is shown by the fact that it is considered the biggest private environmental project of its kind in South Africa.

IMAGES Above – Classic view of winery over dam. Bottles – DNA, GVB and V.

