



WARWICK
ESTATE



Warwick Estate is a South African Winery located in the Stellenbosch region with a rich history dating back to 1771. In 1964 Warwick was purchased by the Ratcliffe family and since then has been on a mission to produce some of the finest wines in South Africa.



IMAGES This page – Above – Managing Director Mike Ratcliffe. Bottom – Warwick Estate. Bottles – White Lady Chardonnay and Estate Cabernet Franc. Opposite page – Warwick estate cellar door.

After the Anglo-Boer war ended in 1902, Colonel William Alexander Gordon, Commanding Officer of the Warwickshire regiment, bought a historic farm in Stellenbosch known as “De Goede Sukses” (the good success). He renamed it Warwick as a tribute to his regiment and the rest, as they say, is history.

In April 1964, Stan Ratcliffe purchased Warwick after an extensive search for the best terroir in the Cape. Together with his wife Norma, they soon realized the potential of the extraordinary property and quickly began to plant Cabernet Sauvignon.

Norma became increasingly interested in the winemaking side of the business and set about learning her craft. After purchasing some second hand winemaking equipment, taking a few oenology classes and even doing a stint as an intern in a Bordeaux cellar, she was ready to produce her first wine.

In 1984, the first Warwick bottling was released – a Cabernet Sauvignon by the name of ‘La Femme Bleu’– the Blue Lady. This was soon followed by Warwick Trilogy, which was released in 1986. A Bordeaux style blend, this wine would go on to become one of the flagship wines of South Africa.

A stalwart of the South African wine industry and one of the first female winemakers in the country, Norma is often referred to as “The First Lady”, after the winery’s inaugural release. In 2015, Norma was awarded the 1659 Medal of Honour for her impact on and contribution to the nation’s winemaking efforts. No small effort, as previous winners of this prestigious award include Nelson Mandela, amongst other leaders.



These days, Warwick Estate continues to be family-owned and run. Managing Director Michael Ratcliffe is the 2nd generation family member to oversee this quality-focused, boutique winery. He has played a key role in positioning Warwick as one of the most innovative producers in South Africa and has twice been nominated for the 'Innovator of the Year' award by Wine Enthusiast magazine.

In terms of the range, Warwick has established itself as one of Stellenbosch's standout producers when it comes to Bordeaux-style blends and single varietal wines.

Warwick Trilogy, a red blend, is the winery's flagship wine and has earned a truly iconic status, with multiple vintages adorning some of the greatest wine lists across the world. Meanwhile, Warwick Three Cape Ladies was recently immortalised

in popular fiction, featuring as the 'seduction' wine in the latest James Bond book entitled 'Carte Blanche'.

Warwick have also established a reputation as a pioneer in the production of Cabernet Franc in South Africa. Warwick was the first South African winery to launch a Cabernet Franc, which proved to be a pivotal move creating a much-admired reputation for Warwick's accomplishments with this Bordeaux varietal.

Warwick are not only known for their iconic red varietals; they also produce highly rated white wines such as their premium Estate Chardonnay – The White Lady Chardonnay. The 2016 vintage was awarded 5 stars in the 2018 Platter Guide and the 2014 was voted 'South African White Wine of the Year' by Platter.

We believe in quality without compromise

IMAGES Left – First Lady Sauvignon Blanc. Top right – Welcome picnics. Bottom right – Cellar door and garden.





IMAGES Above -Tasting room at cellar door. Bottom - Estate Vineyard. Bottle - Trilogy.

When it comes to viticulture, minimal intervention and an environmentally friendly approach to vineyard management are at the heart of Warwick's ethos.

Realising the importance of biodiversity over the past decade, the estate has strived to maintain a balance between nature and winemaking. The farm refrains from using harmful insecticides, concentrating instead on spot treatments in the vineyards. This has had a positive effect, and their booming earthworm population is a result. Warwick are a Biodiversity and Wine Initiative Member, striving to protect and conserve the Cape Floral Kingdom, by preserving the Cape Fynbos and planting at least 100-150 trees per year.

