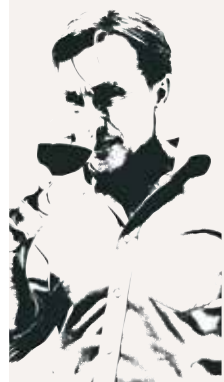


text
Wade Bales



Wade Bales is a well-known wine négociant and merchant

1. SUGARBIRD HONEYBUSH & MORINGA GIN

Sugarbird has again captured the flavours of the Cape floral kingdom. A truly African product, steeped in two strains of fynbos tea, its Honeybush and Moringa gin was initially created as a limited-edition gin mini. However, it was flooded with requests for a full-size bottle, and the result is this exceptional offering. Floral-driven amber gin is trickle-filtered through honeybush and rooibos leaves, with added warm-toffee and woody notes. Available online at Smous and Takealot at the recommended price of R375 a bottle.



01.



02.

2. A FUTURE CLASSIC

Having spent 22 months in French oak, the Vilafonté Series C 2020 is a sumptuous blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot, malbec, and cabernet franc. Rich layers of black-currant pastille, liquorice, juniper berry, and charred cedar lead to a beautifully integrated palate, with a core of satin-textured tannins and youthful energy. While alluring in its youth, the 2020 Series C promises a decade or more of cellaring to realise its full potential. Retails at Rxxx

3. A FORMIDABLE TRIO

The only single malt produced in Scotland that's still made in the traditional way, Highland Park Whisky continues to pay tribute to the proud, adventurous, and fiercely independent Viking spirit and roots.



03.

18 Year Old Viking Pride

This aptly named single malt owes everything to the five keystones of production that have been honoured for over 220 years. The high ratio of first-fill sherry-seasoned European and American oak casks selected to create the 18 Year Old gives it a unique flavour profile bursting with overripe cherries, bitter dark chocolate, sweet marzipan, heather honey, and aromatic peat smoke. R2 499 a bottle.

12 Year Old Viking Honour

Predominantly aged in sherry-seasoned European and American oak casks, the 12 Year Old boasts warm wintery spices and is the perfect balance of smoky sweetness, heather honey, rich fruitcake, spice, orange, and peat flavours.

10 Year Old Viking Scars

Also matured in sherry-seasoned European and American oak casks, the 10 Year Old is a fistful of fallen oranges, dollops of vanilla cream, and smoky heather peat. Sip it neat, on ice, or with a dash of water (still or sparkling). R479 a bottle.

As the holiday season finally approaches, may you stay as chilled and distilled as these drinks

BOTTOMS UP!

4. THE WADE BALES REGIONAL SERIES

Created to showcase the diversity of the Cape winelands, each wine in this range pays tribute to a region's signature style. The project brings together leading winemakers who then contribute their best wines to create the ultimate expression of their region. Whether you choose the crisp Constantia White 2021 (a five-star sauv blanc/semillon blend), the golden-delicious Breedekloof Chenin 2021, the flavourful Franschhoek Semillon 2021, the serious Swartland Syrah 2020, or the celebrated Stellenbosch Cab Sauv 2018, this range offers affordable luxury that's well worth toasting. Price per bottle xxx at wadebales.co.za



04.

05.

5. ELITE ELOTE

Uniting the two staple ingredients of Mexico (corn and agave) into one sublime blend, the Vago Elote mescal has a velvety mouthfeel with an oh-so-subtle corn infusion that only adds to the sense of fiesta. Distilled in copper pots by real artisans in a generations-long tradition, this is an excellent "gateway" mescal for the whisky connoisseurs among us. R1 425 a bottle.

