

# NEIL ELLIS WINES

In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, Jan de Jonkheer, was granted land just east of the town of Stellenbosch. Some 300 years later, the area now known as Jonkershoek Valley is home to the Neil Ellis Winery, founded by winemaker and wine-entrepreneur, Neil Ellis and Stellenbosch-based businessman, Hans Peter Schröder.

An alum of KWV, then South Africa's biggest wine co-operative, and the historic Groot Constantia Estate, Neil was the Cape's first winemaker to function without his own cellar or vineyards. In 1986, he began to source grapes and make wine under the Neil Ellis label. Hans purchased the Oude Nektar Farm in the Jonkershoek Valley, met Neil and partnered with him to establish the Neil Ellis Winery in 1993.

For over two decades the winery philosophy is unchanged: in the regions of Stellenbosch, Darling and Elgin seek out the best vineyards for the particular varietal that is planted in these soils.

At a young age, Warren Ellis, was helping his father in the winery. Like many around the wine world who grow up surrounded by vineyards and winemaking, Warren developed the passion to be a winemaker. He holds both a BSc and MSc Agric in Viticulture and Oenology from the University of Stellenbosch. He has travelled the European wine world learning viticulture and cellar practices. Since 2006, Warren has been part of the Neil Ellis wine team as winemaker with viticultural responsibilities.

As a member of the IPW, a voluntary environmental sustainability scheme, Neil Ellis Wines implements numerous eco-friendly practices. Grapes are handpicked to reduce soil compaction. Indigenous vegetation such as fynbos is used as cover crops to eliminate erosion and promote healthy soils. They employ responsible environmental practices by respecting the soil, cutting water use, recycling and reducing energy use and greenhouse emissions.

## Jonkershoek

The majority of the Jonkershoek Valley is a nature reserve well known for its fynbos, trails and waterfalls but it is the mouth of the valley that is known for its distinctive conditions best suited for grape growing. The 14ha of vines on the Klein Gustrouw farm were planted during an ongoing replanting program that started in 1990 introducing the latest soil preparation techniques and best plant material. The south facing slopes are significantly cooler than the surrounding area of Stellenbosch and a howling South Eastern wind during the summer months cools down the vineyards considerably, minimizing vine disease and holding down

yields. The soils are mostly deep, decomposed granite soils. Vineyard altitudes range from 190m to 550m above sea level.

## Elgin

Elgin is one of the Cape's coolest viticultural areas with an average temperature of 20°C during the month of February. Elgin vineyards produce outstanding Chardonnay, Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc. A mere 10km from the ocean, this valley benefits from cold winters with abundant rainfall, followed by cool South Easterly sea breezes in the summer. The cool summers allow for a longer ripening period which produces grapes with concentration, fruit intensity and elegant tannins. The soils range from white mineral sandstone and quartz soils known as table mountain sandstone to deep red clay soils from the parent rocks of kouebokkeveld shale and koffiekliip. The vines are trellised to a 7 wire Perold system helping with shoot positioning for optimal sun utilisation. Average altitude 300 metres.

## Groenekloof

Groenekloof is situated near Darling on the West Coast and consist of a series of hills running parallel to the ocean. This region is particularly well-suited for producing outstanding Sauvignon blanc. With fairly consistent weather, cold breezes from the Southern Atlantic Ocean and cool prevailing southwesterly winds, the grapes in the Groenekloof ward are ensured a long, ripening period for maximum aroma development. The deep, red, decomposed granite has a good water holding capacity which is suitable for dryland cultivation. All the vineyards are bush vines that lead to a great complexity and fruit intensity in the wines as the bunches on the vine are all exposed to different conditions. Situated only 8km from the cold Atlantic Ocean, our Groenekloof vineyards rise to 350 metres above sea level.

## Piekenierskloof

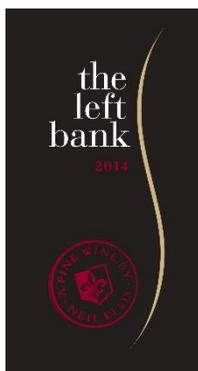
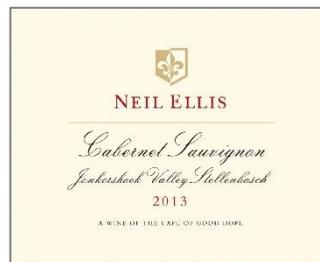
The mountain vineyards of Piekenierskloof are known to produce outstanding Grenache sourced from dry land bush vines, situated at 500 metres above sealevel. These bushvines were planted in 1954 on their own roots, ungrafted and still completely disease-free, complementing the elegance, finesse and sweetness of fruit in the wines. The extreme temperatures of the Piekenierskloof can range between dry, hot days to extremely cold nights. The soils are mostly table mountain sandstone and shales. Our award-winning Vineyard Selection Grenache is sourced from these extraordinary vineyards.

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## Winery

The new winery and tasting room, built in 2010, houses the tasting room, administration and production facilities. The winery has its own crush pad, fermentation room, barrel maturation cellar as well as stabilization and bottling facilities giving them full control of every aspect of the winemaking process.

Neil Ellis Wines' environmentally sensitive winery, built with very thick and heavy rammed earth walls, houses their tasting room, vinotéque, administration offices and production facilities.



## W INES

NEIL ELLIS  
aenigma  
Amica  
Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek  
Cabernet Sauvignon Stellenbosch  
Chardonnay Elgin  
Chardonnay Whitehall  
Grenache Piekenierskloof  
Sauvignon Blanc Groenekloof  
Webb Ellis

SINCERELY  
Chardonnay  
Sauvignon Blanc

THE LEFT BANK  
The Left Bank