

A.A. Badenhorst

Swartland, South Africa

HISTORY

Adi Badenhorst grew up among the vineyards of Groot Constantia, where his grandfather served as general manager for 46 years. As a child, Adi spent his days picking (and occasionally stealing) grapes and made his first wine at the age of thirteen, with renowned winemaker Jean Daneel. Adi studied at Elsenburg, then went to work harvest at Chateau Angelus & Alain Graillot in France, Wither Hills in NZ and locally at Simonsig, Steenberg & Groote Post. He spent nine years as winemaker at the esteemed Stellenbosch estate, Rustenberg.

In 2008, Adi and his cousin Hein bought a 148 acre (60 ha) piece of land in the Swartland appellation, and A.A. Badenhorst Family Wines was born. Since its inception, the cousins have remained committed to the tenets of the family estate: to practice biological farming and make natural wines in the traditional manner.

VINEYARDS & WINEMAKING

Badenhorst follows no dogma, but has adopted both biodynamic and organic practices. Vineyards are mostly dry farmed (rain fed), with some limited irrigation collected from winter rainfall. Biological farming combines the best of conventional and organic practices, in order to cultivate healthier soil, and in turn, healthier crops. This approach focuses on restoring and supporting naturally occurring microorganisms and beneficial macro-organisms in the soil. These living organisms help unlock nutrients, enhance soil structure, and promote long-term farm vitality.

When it comes to winemaking, Badenhorst takes a natural approach, with a deep sense of terroir expression and the ultimate goal of showcasing a place.

Region	Coastal Region
District	Swartland
Year Founded	2008
Proprietors	cousins Adi & Hein Badenhorst
Winemakers	Adi Badenhorst, Selma Willemse, & Jorrie du Plessis
Size of Property	864 acres (350 ha); Original purchase: 148 acres (60 ha) Planted to Vine: 395 acres (160 ha)
Elevation	590 – 1,082 ft (180–330m)
Soils	3 types of granite: Paardeberg, Lammershoek & Lemoenfontein, with subsoils of clay, weathered granite, and shale
Vine Age	average of 31 yrs (oldest: 1952; youngest: 2025)
Farming Practices	mostly dry farmed (rain fed), with some limited irrigation collected from winter rainfall
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