



Lady May


GLENELLY
STELLENBOSCH



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Lady May

Madame Celebrates 101

Growing up in Bordeaux and later marrying a French army officer, I never imagined that one day I would be making wine in South Africa.

In 1978, I took over my father's estate, Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande. In my fifties, I returned to university to deepen my understanding of winemaking, determined to carry the estate forward with both knowledge and conviction.

For over 30 years, I led Pichon-Lalande, earning recognition from critics and competitions around the world. Yet I remained curious, always open to new beginnings.

In 2003, after several visits to South Africa, I found that opportunity in Stellenbosch. I believed then, as I do now, that its terroir could produce wines of true world-class stature. With Glenelly, we set out to craft Cabernet Sauvignon-led blends that reflect both structure and elegance, culminating in our flagship, Lady May.

As I celebrate my 101st year, I raise a glass of Lady May 2021 to you, a vintage that we believe stands among our finest. May it give you a sense of place, balance and elegance and fill your hearts with joy!

Santé!

M. de Lencquesaing







"I'd been waiting to taste the 2021 Lady May for over a year, and it didn't disappoint. Led by Cabernet Sauvignon with a supporting cast of 9% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot, it's one of the best releases yet of this increasingly iconic red.

Fresh, perfumed and intense, with cigar box, graphite and rocket aromas, it has a core of cassis and black olive, deftly integrated 40% new oak, layered tannins and the structure to age gracefully in bottle."

97 Points, Tim Atkin MW



Behind the Label

The Lady May is named after the owner of Glenelly Estate, May-Éliane de Lencquesaing.

Its label features a sculpture of Madame May by the renowned French artist Maxime Real del Sarte, created in 1948 and given as a wedding gift. The design reflects the purity and elegance of the wine, while the warm gold capsule pays homage to her roots at Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in Bordeaux, where the same shade was used.

On the back label, May shares her vision for this cuvée:

"It has always been my dream to craft the finest Cabernet Sauvignon blend outside of France. At the age of 78, I discovered Glenelly Estate in the heart of Stellenbosch, the ideal place for this vision to take shape. Sourced from our highest and coolest vineyard slopes, these grapes give Lady May its elegance, depth and ageing potential. This wine is my legacy."



Lady May

2021

GLENELLY



Lady May

2021

GLENELLY



Lady May

2021

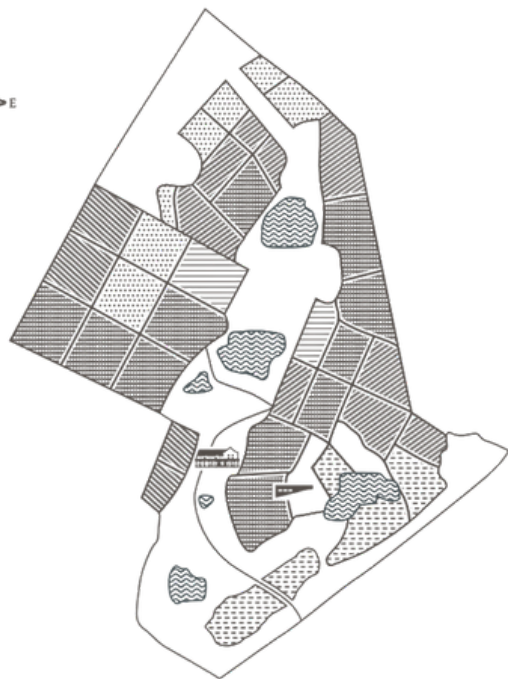
GLENELLY

Lady May

2021

GLENELLY





- | | |
|--|--|
|  Chardonnay 5 ha |  Syrah 11 ha |
|  Petit Verdot 5 ha |  Cabernet Sauvignon 24 ha |
|  Cabernet Franc 4 ha |  Water dam |
|  Merlot 8 ha | |

The 2021 Blend

78% *Cabernet Sauvignon*

9% *Merlot*

7% *Cabernet Franc*

6% *Petit Verdot*

Nestled in a striking amphitheatre, on the foothills of Simonsberg Mountain, our vines benefit from a unique diversity of microclimates.

The soils on which they are planted are amongst the oldest in the world. They consist of decomposed granite with a subsoil of clay and enable good drainage for the roots to grow deep, contributing to the complexity of our wines.

The Lady May is crafted from various sites located on southeast-facing slopes. The final blend will differ slightly every year, depending on how the vintage affected each individual block or cultivar.





Weather Conditions

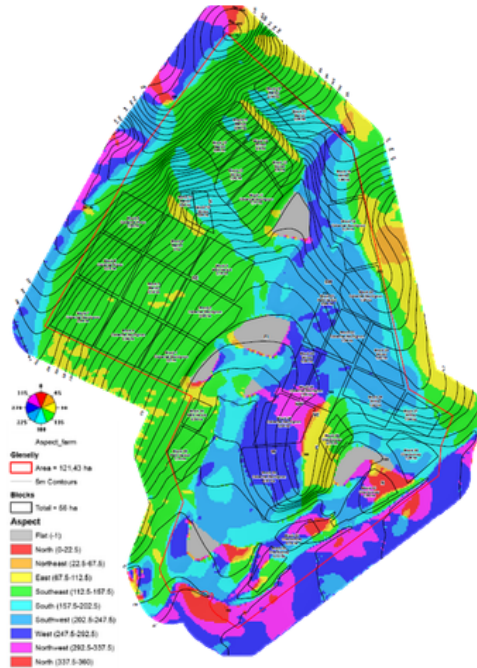
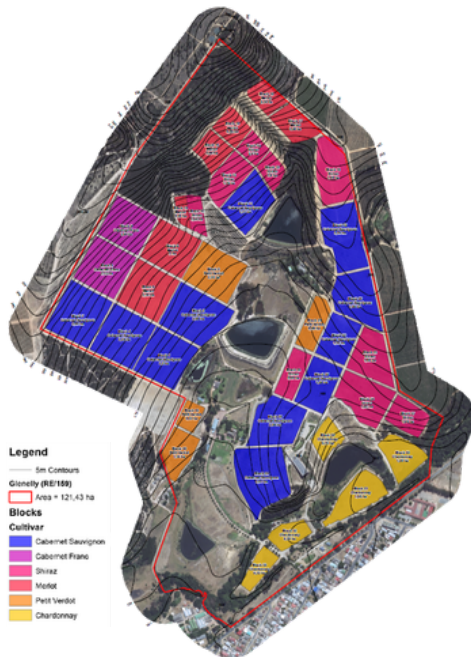
Simonsberg, Stellenbosch

The period following the 2020 harvest was marked by dry and unusually warm conditions, leading to early leaf fall. Rainfall arrived later than expected, beginning towards the end of May and delaying the establishment of cover crops.

Winter brought good rainfall, though temperatures remained moderate. These cooler conditions, combined with ample soil moisture, resulted in bud break occurring approximately two weeks later than usual.

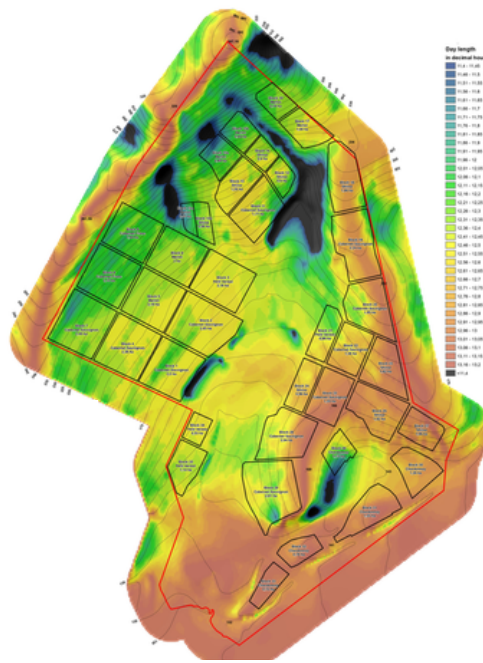
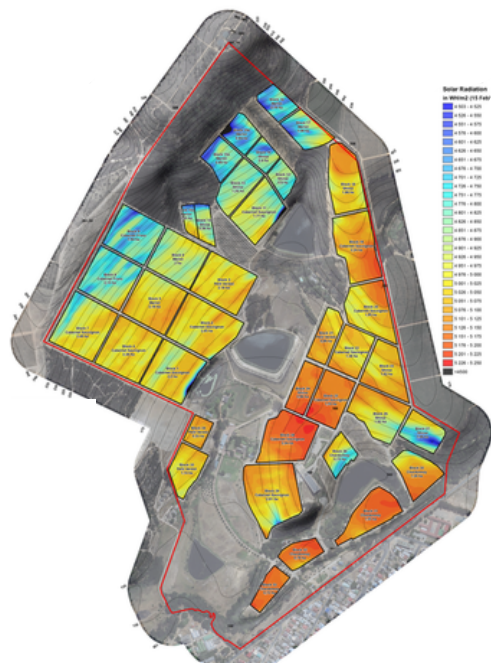
Flowering took place under mild conditions, allowing for excellent fruit set and even bunch development. The growing season that followed was characterised by strong vegetative growth due to abundant water availability. This required careful canopy management to maintain airflow, light penetration, and vine health in the face of increased disease pressure.

Veraison was delayed, in line with the cooler conditions, and the ripening period extended into a slower, more measured phase. Harvest commenced around two weeks later than in 2020. This extended hang time allowed for optimal flavour development and refined tannin structure, while preserving exceptional natural acidity.



Aspect

The southeastern slopes are critical in the production of Lady May. These slopes are steep and therefore very well-drained, ensuring smaller berries with increased concentration. They are also more exposed to the prevailing winds, which both cool the vineyard down and keeps them healthy.



Solar Radiation

The southeastern slopes receive the least amount of solar radiation and shortest sunshine hours. This combination ensures much slower and more even ripening, enabling fantastic tannin and flavour development and is crucial to making a wine that has a dense, but fine tannin structure with great length and ageing potential.





Dirk Van Zyl, Cellar Master

Winemaking

The grapes were hand-picked and gently crushed before being transferred into stainless steel tanks.

Fermentation occurred naturally, with extraction managed through a maximum of two pump-overs per day to preserve balance and finesse. Following fermentation, the wine remained on the skins for a further two to three weeks, allowing for additional structure and complexity to develop.

The wine was then matured for 24 months in 300-litre French oak barrels. It spent the first 12 months as individual components in 30–40% new oak. After blending, it was returned to barrel for a further 12 months, this time in 70% new oak, allowing the final wine to integrate and refine.



Tasting Notes

The Lady May 2021 presents with deep intensity in the glass, revealing a layered aromatic profile that is both powerful and precise. Notes of crème de cassis and blackcurrant lead, supported by hints of cherry tobacco, graphite, and subtle herbal nuances. There is a clarity and purity to the fruit that reflects the cooler vintage, with oak seamlessly integrated into the overall expression.

On the palate, the wine shows impressive concentration and structure. Dark fruit flavours of black and blue berries are carried by fine, chalky tannins that provide both grip and elegance. The texture is dense yet controlled, balancing power with restraint, and allowing each component of the blend to express itself with definition and harmony.

The finish is long, refined, and composed, with a sense of freshness that underpins its ageing potential. This is a wine built with precision and intent, offering both immediate depth and the promise of further complexity over time. It stands as a benchmark expression of Glenelly's pursuit of power, elegance, and balance.



Awards and Scores

The best vintage yet!

Greg Sherwood MW

98 *Points*

Tim Atkin MW

97 *Points*

James Suckling MW

94 *Points*
#21 Top 100 Wines of SA

Robert Parker Wine Advocate

93 *Points*





"A blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot aged for 24 months in French oak barrels.

Dense dark and opaque in the glass with incredibly potent and pure fruited aromatics of creme de cassis, saline black currant, cherry tobacco, grilled herbs and subtle vanilla pod spice nuances. The palate embraces power and density showing fine chalky tannins, a real black and blue fruited intensity with just the most classically restrained, harmonious and elegant finish. This is a phenomenal red wine that registers quality-wise in the highest of echelons of Cape Bordeaux Blends."

98 Points, Greg Sherwood

Lady May
2015

Lady May
2017

Lady May
2021

<i>Weather Conditions</i>	A warm and dry growing season, leading to an earlier harvest and optimal ripening conditions	Very dry vintage, with moderate summer temperatures and a smaller harvest	Cooler season, with slower ripening and a delayed start to harvest
<i>Structure & Balance</i>	Expressive fruit, great purity and polished tannins	Firmly structured with great concentration and fine tannins	Firm and finely structured, with a great line of acidity and wonderful length
<i>Blend Composition</i>	69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 11% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot	90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot	78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot
<i>Key Insight</i>	A vintage with great fruit expression and balance	A real benchmark vintage, classically styled, with incredible ageing potential	A wine built on precision and longevity, showcasing the cooler vintage
<i>Awards</i>	96+ Points – Greg Sherwood MW 96 Points – Oz Clarke 95 Points – Decanter 96 Points – Christian Eedes 5 Stars – Platter's	97 Points – Tim Atkin MW 97 Points – Greg Sherwood MW 97 Points – Christian Eedes 5 Stars – Platter's 94 Points – Robert Parker Wine Advocate	98 Points – Greg Sherwood MW 97 Points – Tim Atkin MW 94 Points, #21 Top 100 Wines of SA – James Suckling MW 93 Points – Robert Parker Wine Advocate

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Please note that Lady May 2021 is available in larger formats. Please contact us for more details.



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