

**Media release:  
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**Signature Red Blend Report 2017**

Winemag.co.za is pleased to present the second annual Signature Red Blend Report.

Why should South Africa be bound by the Bordeaux model when it comes to creating great blended red wine? Perhaps the Rhône is a better reference point given local growing conditions while the so-called “Cape Blend” incorporating Pinotage potentially gives us a unique selling proposition. Then, of course, there are the red blends of yesteryear – Alto Rouge, Chateau Libertas and Rustenberg Dry Red to name but three – which conformed to no particular model but are revered for their complexity and longevity.

Here at Winemag.co.za, we have come up with the collective name of “Signature Red Blend” for those wines which are distinctive of their originators and draw particular attention in the market place.

What is the state of the category? The Signature Red Blend Report was designed to answer precisely this question with 82 entries from 62 producers received this year. These were tasted blind (labels out of sight) by the three-person panel, scoring done according to the 100-point quality scale.

Results were announced on 1 August at Villa 47 in Cape Town. Wines to rate 90 or higher on the 100-point quality scale were as follows:

**92**

Joostenberg Bakermat 2015

Price: R186

Newton Johnson Granum 2015

Price: R273

Olifantsberg Silhouette 2013

Price: R195

Vrede en Lust Artisan Range Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon 2013

Price: R139

**91**

Creation Syrah Grenache 2015

Price: R190

DeMorgenzon Maestro Blue 2015

Price: R200

Eikendal Charisma 2015

Price: R104

Guardian Peak Summit 2014

Price: R160

Luddite Saboteur Red 2015

Price: R250

Opstal Carl Everson Cape Blend 2015

Price: R175

Rust en Vrede 1694 2014

Price: R1 300

Vondeling Erica 2014

Price: R195

## **90**

Fairview Extraño 2013

Price: R100

Haskell II 2013

Price: R180

Haut Espoir Gentle Giant 2012

Price: R90

Le Riche Richesse 2015

Price: R140

Orange River Cellars Lyra Vega 2015

Price: R95

Spier Creative Block 8 2014

Price: R159

Stellenbosch Vineyards Credo Shiraz Merlot Viognier 2014

Price: R149

Warwick Three Cape Ladies 2013

Price: R160

To read the report in full, go to [www.winemag.co.za](http://www.winemag.co.za).

Join the conversation and follow the action on twitter #SignatureReport

**-ENDS –**

**For further information, contact Jacqueline Lahoud on 083 654 7721 or**

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#### **About Winemag.co.za**

Wine magazine was published from 1993 until 2011 and now lives on in digital form. We cover everything to do with South African fine wine and we currently have approximately 15 000 users and achieve 50 000 page impressions a month.

Christian Eedes is editor. After graduating from Stellenbosch University with a BA Honours in philosophy, he joined Wine magazine in 2000 and served as editor between May 2008 and December 2009. He has completed a wine evaluation course and a small-scale winemaking course under the auspices of the Department of Viticulture and Oenology at Stellenbosch University. His experience includes tasting for the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show and Platter's South African Wine Guide in addition to various other local and international competitions.

Jacqueline Lahoud is business manager. She has extensive media experience including being publisher of Getaway magazine and Show & Events Director at RamsayMedia. Now runs her own digital media business in Cape Town.