

The logo for Robert Parker Wine Advocate. It features the name "Robert Parker" in a large, elegant, black cursive script. Below the name, the words "WINE ADVOCATE" are written in a smaller, black, all-caps, sans-serif font, centered under the signature.

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

South Africa is where Julien Schaal's winemaking career began in 2001 when he was 21 years old and started with "nothing but 6,000 euros." Today Julien rents a cellar space at the Paul Cluver winery in Elgin where he stores all his equipments, tanks, barrels, etc. I have included two beautiful Cape Chardonnays from there into this report.



Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

2017 Julien Schaal • Elgin
Chardonnay Evidence

Rating

91

Drink Date

2018 - 2024

Reviewed by

[Stephan Reinhardt](#)

Issue Date

31st Oct 2018

Source

[239, The Wine Advocate](#)

Julien Schaal's South African 2017 Elgin Chardonnay Evidence offers a clear, bright, fresh and elegant nose of ripe fruits intertwined with noble sur lie aromas. Silky and very elegant on the palate, this is a full-bodied but concentrated, lush and well-structured wine with remarkable finesse and lingering salinity. A stunning, mouthwatering wine from the high-lying, late-ripening cool-climate Elgin district.



Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

2017 Julien Schaal • Upper
Hemel-en-Aarde Chardonnay
Confluence

Rating

92

Drink Date

2019 - 2026

Reviewed by

[Stephan Reinhardt](#)

Issue Date

31st Oct 2018

Source

[239, The Wine Advocate](#)

Coming from one of the three "heaven-on-earth" appellations inland of the coastal town of Hermanus and aged for 12 months in 300-liter barrels (with 20% new oak from the Vosges, France), Sophie and Julien Schaal's 2017 Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Chardonnay Confluence offers a ripe but coolish and elegant nose with more stony than fruity aromas. Sourced from a south-facing slope on decomposed granite, this is a very elegant, lush and persistent Chardonnay with remarkable mineral intensity and length. The 2017 is dense and tightly structured but has intense fruit and a long finish. It seems to be a bit more powerful, complex and concentrated compared to the Elgin Chardonnay, and the finish is more serious, promising greater longevity. This wine can already be enjoyed today, but it will probably widen its complexity with bottle age. In any case, this is a remarkable Chardonnay from the Western Cape. Tasted October 2018.