

Julien Schaal

Former sommelier and peripatetic winemaker Julien Schaal came under the spell of the Cape working the 2003 vintage in Hemel-en-Aarde. He and winemaker wife Sophie now pursue a seasonal commute between Alsace, where they produce grand cru riesling, and Elgin, where they build on a reputation for regionally expressive, elegant syrah and chardonnay. From 2020, all grapes for the latter will be sourced from home-base Paul Cluver, where the wines are made, dropping the Hemel-en-Aarde components. Lockdown disrupted their travels, and finishing of the vintage was done by host cellar master Andries Burger.

★★★★ **Syrah** ✓ Stylish, exuberantly ripe & plush **19** ★★★★★ (90) offers tobacco spices, morello cherries & subtle pepper & scrub notes from partial wholeberry ferment. Charming Old World style & weight, from cool Walker Bay vineyards. 30% new oak. Improves on **18** (88).

★★★★★ **Mountain Vineyards Chardonnay** ✓ Classic cool-climate styling on **19** (91) from Elgin & Upper Hemel-en-Aarde, with fresh acidity & minerality countering fine lemon zest fruit. 80% wood fermented but no oak intrusion (the 300L barrel size chosen to foster 'complexity & terroir aromas'). No malo. Finely judged & elegant.

Not tasted: **Evidence Chardonnay**. Discontinued: **Confluence Chardonnay**. — GdB

Location: Elgin ■ WO: Walker Bay/Cape South Coast ■ Est 2004 ■ 1stB 2005 ■ Tasting by appt only ■ Owner(s) Julien Schaal ■ Winemaker(s) Sophie & Julien Schaal ■ 28t/4,000cs own label 20% red 80% white ■ c/o PO Box 48 Grabouw 7160 ■ julien@vins-schaal.com ■ www.julianschaal.com ■ T +33 (0)6-10-89-72-14

Juno see Cape Wine Company

Kaap Agri see Breëland Winery - Marais Family Wines