

Chapter 38
South Africa

<p>CLIMATE AND GRAPE GROWING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 27°-34° - south of the Equator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should be a hot climate, but moderated ● Benguela Current (through Southern Ocean, up from Antarctic) = cools coastal areas ● Cape Doctor - SE summer winds = cools areas further inland ● Mountain ranges = range of different altitudes, aspects, soil (valley floor warmer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mountains can cause shadow over vineyards to cool them ○ Also helps channel wind through the vineyards
<p>GRAPE VARIETIES AND WINEMAKING</p>	<p><i>Black grapes</i> Syrah (hot area) rich/full-bodied/red + black fruits/meat/game - or - (cooler area) more peppery Pinot Noir A small amount - coastal areas Pinotage (PN x Cinsault) Blended with international varieties ('Cape Blend') Light/fruity/red berry → (old bush vine) full-bodied/rich/spiced red berry Chocolate/coffee (oak or oak stave contact)</p> <p><i>White grapes</i> Chenin Blanc Most widely planted grape (Basic) easy-drinking/stone fruit → (complex) old bush vines/concentrated fruit Colombard = brandy grape Sauvignon Blanc Picked early to retain acidity - coolest coastal regions Pure varietal characteristics/citrus/green fruits/herbaceous Muscat of Alexandria (Hanepoot) = sweet wine, late-harvest Viognier = rich, perfumed/hint of toasty oak Blends = Chenin Blanc + Rhone varieties (Marsanne/Roussanne/Grenache Blanc/Viognier)</p>
<p>REGIONS AND WINES</p>	<p>90% prod = Western Cape (remainder from Orange River, Northern Cape - expensive whites)</p>
<p>COASTAL REGION</p>	<p>Stellenbosch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate: Moderate-Warm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sufficient rainfall in winter/summers not too hot (cooled by winds from False Bay funnelled by mountains) ● Premium/fine wine region ● Different variety, aspect, altitude soils ● Top-quality reds: Cab Sauv/Merlot/Syrah/Cape Blends ● Whites: SB/Chard <p>Paarl</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N of Stellenbosch - less moderating influences - inland (warmer), but can have cool night time temp ● Mountains = variety of aspect/altitude/soil ● <i>CB/Syrah/Pinotage</i> ● <i>Chenin Blanc/Chard</i> <p>Constantia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eastern flank of Table Mountain - v. old vines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooled by Cape Doctor ● Sauvignon Blanc = high rep ● Sweet wine - Vin de Constance - late-harvest Muscat ● S of Table Mountain - close to Cape Point - high qual SB/Semillon (cooling ocean) ● Warmer sites = Syrah/CB <p>Swartland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Was high-vol/inexpensive → moving towards premium ● Old vine Chenin Blanc + Syrah - grown with no irrigation = lower yields/more concentrated fruit flavour ● SW - Darling district - coastal sea breezes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High rep SB (also old vines) <p>Durbanville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tygerberg district ● Hillside sites (N of Cape Town) ● Cooled = sea breezes ● SB
<p>BREEDER RIVER VALLEY</p>	<p>Worcester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate: Hot + dry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Irrigation from rivers necessary ● Fertile soil = high-vol, inexpensive branded wines ● Chenin Blanc + Colombard (latter for distillation) <p>Robertson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cooler climate - SE winds are drawn into valley ● High vol or better qual (in less fertile area)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Syrah/full-bodied Chard</i>
CAPE SOUTH COAST	<p>Walker Bay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Famous Hemel-en-Arde ward • <i>Chard/PN/SB/Merlot/Syrah</i> <p>Elgin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altitude = cooling influence • SB (high qual)/PN/Chard/Syrah <p>Cape Agulhas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Famous Elim ward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Herbaceous SB (potential for Syrah)

South African Wine Laws

Wine of Origin (W.O.) = seal on every bottle

Geographical unit (ie, Western Cape - allows prods to blend fruit from different areas) →

Regions (ie, Coastal Region/Breede River Valley) --->

Districts →

Wards

Estate wines = all grapes grown and bottles on single estate (top estates also release W.O. brand)

Voluntary sustainable agricultural scheme = Integrated Production of Wine (ITW on label)

Can display as part of W.O. seals.