



THE OLD VINE PROJECT THE STORY

Old vines are a phenomenon that has captured the attention of the global wine world. Wines that are made from old vines are a tribute to the grower's love of his or her land. They exist because of the people who touched and tended them over many years. In South Africa, producers can certify old vine vineyards and wines with the Old Vine Project (OVP).

South Africa has the advantage that our vineyard plant dates can be verified by the South African Wine Industry Information Systems (SAWIS) back to 1900. This extraordinary database has been instrumental in the existence of the OVP and its guarantee of traceability.

Members of the OVP apply for the Certified Heritage Vineyards seal for wine made from vineyards of 35 years or older, together with the planting date. This is a guarantee to the consumer of authentic wines made according to the OVP viticultural and winemaking guidelines.

The journey to document South Africa's old vines was started in 2002 by vineyard manager, Rosa Kruger. The OVP was formalised in 2016 with seed funding from the Rupert Foundation. Today, with traction gained and awareness spreading, more wines are being launched to augment the OVP's footprint.

> 35 years

CERTIFIED HERITAGE VINEYARDS
MINIMUM AGE

130

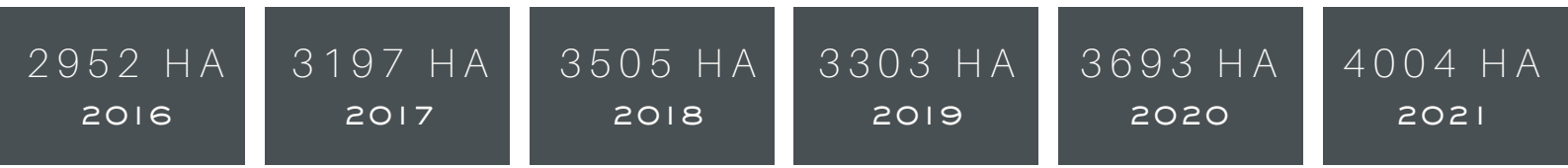
OLD VINE PROJECT
MEMBERS

> 250

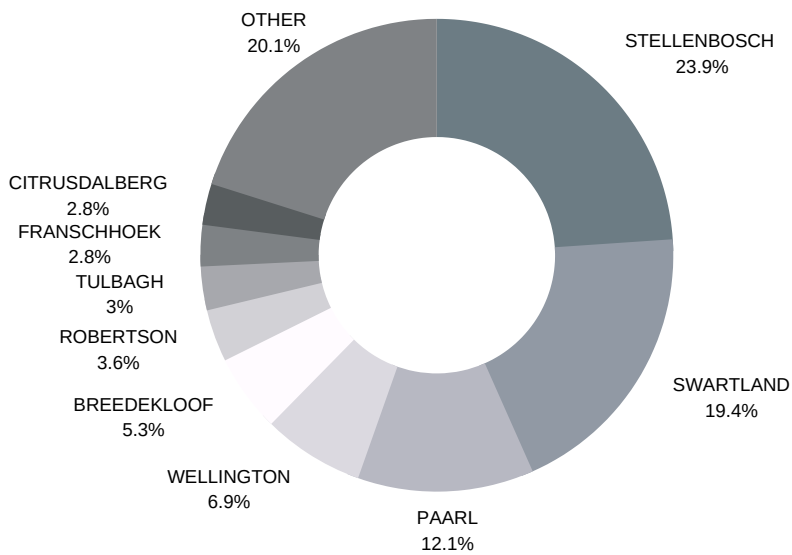
CERTIFIED HERITAGE VINEYARD
WINES REGISTERED PER YEAR

"IT'S NO SURPRISE TO ME THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF MY WINES AND WINEMAKERS OF THE YEAR HAVE AN OLD VINE CONNECTION, CONFIRMING HOW VITAL THE OLD VINE PROJECT IS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN WINE INDUSTRY AND WHY THE COUNTRY'S HERITAGE VINEYARDS ARE SO UNIQUE." - TIM ATKIN, MASTER OF WINE

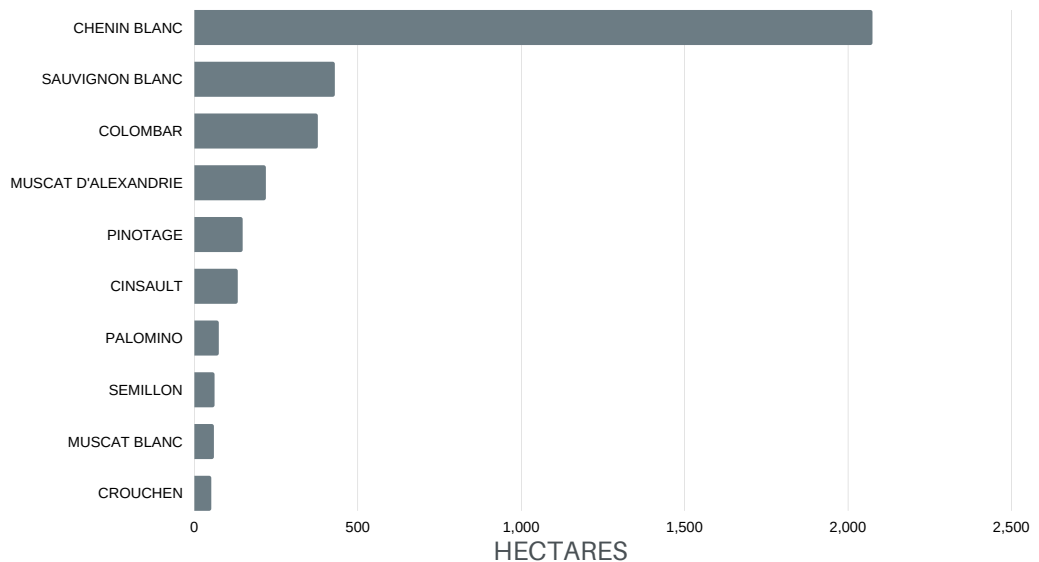
CERTIFIED HERITAGE VINEYARDS HECTARES IN SOUTH AFRICA



CERTIFIED HERITAGE VINEYARDS PER WINE OF ORIGIN DISTRICT IN SOUTH AFRICA



TOP 10 MOST WIDELY PLANTED CULTIVARS OLD VINES IN SOUTH AFRICA



CERTIFIED HERITAGE VINEYARDS

THE SEAL

As a world-first, the Certified Heritage Vineyard seal certifies the plant date of a vineyard from which a wine is made. In a time when consumers are constantly seeking more knowledge and transparency on products, this guarantees authentic wines made according to the OVP viticultural and winemaking guidelines.



TRACEABILITY
EXCLUSIVITY
PRODUCT INTEGRITY
RARITY AND DESIRABILITY
QUALITY DIFFERENTIATION

OLD VINE PRUNING EDUCATION

Approximately 4% of vineyards qualify for Certified Heritage Vineyards status in South Africa. Older vineyards tend to bear less fruit, thus the financial viability per hectare is a key challenge for growers. The secret to enhanced yields lies in the skill and knowledge of the viticulturist, and the workforce who care for and prune the vineyards. The foundation of a great wine always starts in the vineyard. The talent, skill, knowledge, and attitude of pruners can determine the longevity of the vineyard, as well as influence the yield.



FELCO Africa, Imvini Wethu and the OVP designed a specialised pruning training course to motivate, empower and share knowledge on how to treat and prune old vines with care and respect. Pruners are trained in enhanced pruning skills so that they can appreciate the importance and context of their role in the winemaking process. Their contribution has a direct and significant impact on the overall quality of the final product. Knowledge, ideas and experiences are shared between groups of pruners, providing an information base that continues to grow. This training, provided by the OVP along with FELCO, has provided social and environmental upliftment by creating a positive economic impact on the South African wine industry. Pruning is an artisanship that shapes the longevity of the vineyard and the quality of the wine.



PRUNING IS AN ARTISANSHIP THAT SHAPES THE LONGEVITY OF THE VINEYARD
AND THE QUALITY OF THE WINE.

FOR AN OVERVIEW, PLEASE VIEW THE VIDEO [HERE](#).

