

First Growth of the Cape





OUR STORY

Cape Town, South Africa, February 1659

On the 2nd of February 1659, Jan van Riebeeck, the first Commander of the Cape, noted in his diary: "Fine warm weather... Today, praise be to God, wine was made for the first time from Cape grapes."

Stellenbosch, South Africa, February 2009

On the 2nd of February 2009, three hundred and fifty vintages later, four men share a passion for wine and a vision for the future: a world-class wine from South Africa, combining the best terroirs of the Cape with Old World winemaking expertise. On the ground was Giorgio Dalla Cia, whose knowledge of South African vineyards is legendary. Thrilled by the idea, Denis Dubourdieu joins the group: master winemaker to numerous icon wines in Bordeaux, Hermitage and elsewhere.

Our first vintage **G. 2010** was released to rave reviews. The 2011 and 2012 continue to set a new standard – on par with and above the greatest wines of the world. The First Growth of the Cape is conquering the globe.





BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Committed to uncompromised quality, 4G Wine Estate is a newly established wine producer that brings the 'First Growth of the Cape' from South Africa to the world.

Drawing from the best of the Old and the New World, we combine European wine making expertise, perfect craftsmanship and innovative technologies with South Africa's outstanding natural assets for our customers' most pleasurable peak of excitement.

4G maintains the highest possible level of manual work while using state-of-the-art equipment. We apply Gold Standards throughout the complete production chain, starting with selection of the vineyards, growth management, harvesting, vinification, barrel selection and maturation – and not ending once the wine is sold.

The individual vines are meticulously selected from the best terroir in more than a dozen different vineyards across the Western Cape. Key selection criteria include a very special micro climate, excellent sun exposure and soil conditions adapted to the varietal at the best fit level of minerals. Our vineyard portfolio is constantly evaluated and adapted to further increase the overall quality.

The extreme labour intensive treatment of vines all along the growth cycle allows radical optimization and results in the reduction to micro quantities. Only the perfectly matured grapes are harvested by hand and resorted again before they are softly crushed. The effort we put into this is higher than the most renowned estates in Europe can afford.

To allow early and gentle integration of wood aromas, we ferment a selected portion of our grapes in different, individually chosen and adapted barrels, some of which are even made to measure by Master Craftsmen of France. Our First wine typically matures over 18 months in a mix of new oak and 2nd fill barrels.

Consistently, our unique approach caters to immediate as well as future drinking enjoyment as the wine is produced from completely matured grapes when harvested, imbuing an enormous ageing potential based on our extreme focus on quality.



G. 2013

WALDWEBEN

Legendary winemaker Denis Dubourdieu teams up again with young South African talent Mia Fischer to create the 'First Growth of the Cape'. Uncompromised quality is the *Leitmotiv* for this wine that is determined to set new standards – with a strict limitation of 4488 bottles.

First Growth of the Cape

The Season A late start after a rainy winter and a cold spring. The growth season was short and warm, with ideal conditions during harvest time, allowing for a gentler ripening process. The wines showed exceptional fruit, freshness and concentration, especially in the Syrah and Petit Verdot grapes. **Varietals** A blend of Petit Verdot, Syrah, and Cabernet Sauvignon; selected from seven different vineyards across the Western Cape area. **Harvest** Extreme care and intensive selection. Hand picked in small batches, the grapes are carefully destemmed and meticulously sorted twice by expert hands. Manual crushing ensures gentle treatment of the berries. **Vinification** Alcoholic fermentation in both new French oak barrels and stainless steel tanks, with strict temperature control and regular breaking of the cap for optimal extraction. **Maturation** 18 months in new French oak barrels from seven different talented cooperages, thus integrating the rich tannins and adding complexity to the wine. **Tasting Notes** Deep, intense, almost black colour. Powerful and fresh, densely woven bouquet of cherry, blackberry, blueberry and liquorice, playing with a base of cedar wood, black pepper, and Havana tobacco. Velvety attack, mellow and succulent, developing an exceptional density in the mouth without any astringency, providing tender and creamy tannins. A wine soft like butter, perfectly integrated and almost weightless, with an infinite persistence. Burgundy-like finesse and New World force unite admirably in a masterpiece of equilibrium, with an immense maturation potential.

Best glass: Zalto Denk'Art Bordeaux • Riedel Sommeliers Bordeaux Grand Cru

Ready to drink: Now until 2050 or longer

Selected by  **Emirates** First Class



G. 2012

L'AUBE DE LA VIGNE

Legendary winemaker Denis Dubourdieu teams up with young South African talent Mia Fischer to create the 'First Growth of the Cape'. Uncompromised quality is the leitmotiv for this wine that is determined to set new standards – with a strict limitation of 3745 bottles in its third vintage.

First Growth of the Cape

The season Overall healthy with ideal growing conditions and a cool, though lengthened, harvesting period without rain. Cold conditions in November and subsequent heat waves in January resulted in a high quality yet limited crop for red varieties and a small berry size. Particularly outstanding was Syrah in the Stellenbosch area with optimal ripeness at a low pH. **Varietals** A blend of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petit Verdot; selected from seven different vineyards across the Western Cape area. **Harvest** Extreme care and intense selection. Hand picked in small portions, the grapes are carefully destemmed and meticulously sorted twice by expert hands. Manual crushing ensures gentle treatment of the berries. **Vinification** Alcoholic fermentation in both new French oak barrels and stainless steel tanks, with strict temperature control and regular breaking of the cap for optimal extraction. **Maturation** 18 months in new French oak barrels from seven different talented cooperages, thus integrating the rich tannins and adding complexity to the wine. **Tasting notes** Profound, dark ruby colour in the glass. An explosion of fruit aromas with blueberry, huckleberry, cassis, notes of juniper and liquorice, over a background of havana tobacco, incense and cedarwood, with hints of cardamom and black pepper, and floral reminiscences of peony. The mellow and velvety attack is followed by a dense and savoury evolution, leading to a lovely and endless sugary final, backed by the freshness of the tannins. Stylistically marrying the complex fruit bomb with a classic right-bank structure, this wine is crafted to beautifully age over decades.



Resounding Pleasure



THE ECHO OF G. 2011

THE ECHO OF G. reflects on the new wine crafted by legendary winemakers Denis Dubourdieu and Giorgio Dalla Cia together with young South African talent Mia Fischer. Second wine to the 'First Growth of the Cape', this œuvre enjoys the same uncompromised quality as G. – and is ultimately born during blending.

The season Tricky and characterised by considerable climatic fluctuations. Cold conditions during flowering, with a windy December and subsequent warm and dry ripening period, resulted in a naturally reduced crop. Excellent fruit-to-skin ratio caused by smaller berries allowed for intense colour, soft tannins, and good structure. **Varietals** A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, and Cabernet Franc; selected from 12 different vineyards across the Western Cape area. **Harvest** Extreme care is applied to the picking and selection of grapes. Handpicked in small portions, they are carefully destemmed and meticulously sorted twice by expert hands. Manual crushing ensures gentle treatment of the berries. **Vinification** Alcoholic fermentation in both new French oak barrels and stainless steel tanks, with strict temperature control and regular breaking of the cap for optimal extraction. **Maturation** 17 months in mostly new French oak barrels from five different talented cooperages, thus integrating the rich tannins and adding complexity to the wine. **Tasting notes** Dark, ruby red colour, dense and complex, rich bouquet of ripe cherries, blackcurrants and blackberries, underpinned by fine zest, havanna tobacco, grisons and roast aromas. Powerful and athletic on the palate, full-bodied and intense, it impresses with ripe, concentrated fruit, freshness and succulence. A classic and complex wine with reminiscences of Pomerol and Châteauneuf, which ends in a persistent, fulminant finish.

Best glass: Zalto Denk'Art Bordeaux • Riedel Sommeliers Bordeaux Grand Cru

Ready to drink: Now till 2035 or longer



Realm of Experience

One hundred years of winemaking expertise
at the highest level. Energy, enthusiasm and
vision.

Uncompromised Quality



REALM OF EXPERIENCE

Old World Masterminds

Decanter's Man of the Year 2016, Godfather of icon wines, mastermind behind the wines of Château Cheval Blanc and Château d'Yquem in Bordeaux, and La Chapelle in Hermitage. **Prof. Denis Dubourdieu** has created some of the greatest wines of his generation scoring up to 100 points. The professor and managing director of the œnologic institute at the University of Bordeaux contributes the latest insight from European scientific research.

At 4G, he recognizes that rarest of visions, the terroir to make a wine that will stand as an equal to the finest wines from around the world. It is a challenge that he embraces with the ultimate goal to bring out the personality of each unique wine.

He joins forces with his associate **Dr. Valérie Lavigne**, a renowned expert in the science of wine aromas, who is also recognized for her research on the ageing process of wines. Her work with 4G continually pushes us forward, upward.

Legend and Talent at the Cape

A living legend in South Africa, creator of such wines as Rubicon at Meerlust Estate, **Giorgio Dalla Cia** has been the Spiritus Rector of 4G. Italian native and a visionary pioneer in his residence of choice, he combines an unparalleled knowledge of the terroirs of the Cape with a drive that permits no obstacles.

Having successfully established **G.** as one of the most sought-after wines of the country, he has handed over the sceptor to the next generation.

Mia Fischer is the craftsman that realizes the vision of her guiding lights. Tireless, with painstaking attention to detail, she carefully carries the wines from the crush pad to the bottle, ensuring that the best possible wine of the country is being made.

Graduating from the renowned Elsenberg Agricultural College, Mia has wine making experience in four countries on three continents.

Her passion and dedication, as well as her uncompromising pursuit of perfection, contributes to the uniqueness of this project.



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



Uncompromised quality goes beyond the winemaking. Our wines are destined to become a *Gesamtkunstwerk*: a Total Work of Art, encompassing all dimensions of craftsmanship to create a luxury item.



Sebastian Blinde

Trained at the famous *Weißensee Kunsthochschule Berlin* school of design, Sebastian's work has appeared in exhibitions in Berlin, Zurich, Riga and Hannover. Creative ideas flow effortlessly from his mind. His uncanny eye for the natural world, combined with an endlessly creative application of flawless technique, make his work a perfect match for 4G.

His artwork for **G.** develops over time,
and every vintage tells a new story.



CREDENTIALS

Feedback from leading international wine experts confirms that G. receives recognition for being the First Growth of the Cape.

World class at a world class price

“
This new and still completely unknown blend... absolutely has the potential to become an icon and I will reward it a well-deserved high rating.”

19/20

René Gabriel
Switzerland's foremost wine authority

Notes from the Cellar

“
It is like swallowing silk. This big wine should be able to age beautifully for the next 25 years... This deserves my best ever mark for a South African wine.”

97/100

Germain Lehodey
Sommelier Mosaic at The Orient, Pretoria

100 Points put to the Test

“
A dream of a wine... providing reliable future potential.”
“Evidently there is a new cult wine emerging on the international wine market.”

97/100

Peter Moser / Ulrich Sautter
Austrian-German Wine Magazine Falstaff

South African Winery Aims for a World-Class Cru

“
...This is a wonderful wine and the proprietors are doing all of the right things to get it its place among the great growths.”

John Mariani's Virtual Gourmet Newsletter

Hidden Gems

“
An auspicious debut... A deft combination of power and freshness, the wine ties for highest-scoring red in this report.”

James Molesworth
Wine Spectator, May 2012

The new World Class

“
Daring the extraordinary... The ambitious wine estate has released so far five vintages of the 'first cult wine of South Africa'”

Rainer Schäfer
European Fine Wine Magazine , June 2016

“
A luxury wine is born.”

New Western Cuisine Magazine, Beijing

“
A world class red that is surely the 'First Growth' of South Africa and imminently the country's finest wine.”

Tim Gaiser, Master Sommelier