

THE STORY OF CONSTANTIA GLEN



Our magnificently appointed boutique wine estate on the upper reaches of the Constantiaberg, is one of the jewels of the Constantia Valley, the home of South African wine with a proud history of winemaking dating back to 1685.

The farm, originally known as Benydendal and later Klein Benydendal, was first registered to its original owner, Johannes Gregorius van Helsdingen in 1813. By 1832, when his nephew Johannes Frederick, inherited the property, it was a productive farm under 15 000 vines. Not much is known about these early years, which saw a fairly rapid succession of ownership until 1843, when Sebastiaan Valentyn van Reenen a grandson of the formidable Cloetes, the famous Dutch VOC merchant family, bought the farm and renamed it Glen Alpine. Under the van Reenens Glen Alpine prospered and became a renowned wine estate visited by many callers to the Cape including Queen Victoria's son, Prince Alfred. In 1851 the land was sold once more on auction and the property, changed hands several times after that.

During later years, the land was used primarily for small scale farming with fruit trees, a small vineyard and dairy, home today to the Constantia Glen tasting room. The land was not actively farmed from the 1960s until the 1990s when it became an elite stud farm for champion Red Angus breeding stock. Since the late 1950s, the 60 hectares of undulating landscape overlooking False Bay have been under the custodianship of the Waibel family, first as rolling forest land, then an Angus stud before returning to its historic wine farming roots.



Manfred Thurnher

In 1995, shortly after the completion of the picturesque manor house, Alexander, co-owner and a third generation Waibel associated with the farm, moved to Cape Town from Dornbirn, Austria with his family. Eager to transform the farm that his grandfather (Dr Manfred Thurnher) had bought back to its original purpose as an acclaimed boutique wine estate, Alexander and his brother-in-law, Gus Allen, changed the name to Constantia Glen. The first vines were planted in 2000 with the very first vintage of Sauvignon Blanc harvested in 2005.

Today, his grandfather's pioneering spirit lives on in beautiful Manfred's Legacy, a tranquil retreat ideal for entertaining on the farm.

The first two Sauvignon Blanc vintages were made at neighbouring cellars until the completion of our very own Constantia Glen cellar in 2007 just before the harvest season.

Constantia Glen – Jewel of the Constantia Valley

At Constantia Glen we take great care of every facet of the winemaking process. Our remarkable cool climate location, close proximity to the sea, altitude and diverse aspects are some of Constantia Glen's richest assets.

Constantia Glen's Vineyard



Cultivated with dedication and a singular vision, our 31 site-specific vineyard blocks are unique in the Constantia Valley. Our 30 hectares comprising 70% red and 30% white grape varieties are situated at 110 – 250 meters above sea level. We only use our own grapes and apply painstaking attention to every vine, eliminating superfluous bunches by allowing only a single bunch per shoot to ripen, the secret behind the extraordinary concentration of flavours of our wines.

Each vintage grown, vinified, and bottled at Constantia Glen shows a clear "fingerprint" of its unique terroir offering wines of balance, elegance and remarkable character, created by winemaker,

Justin van Wyk. Constantia Glen produces a Sauvignon Blanc and two classically styled Bordeaux blends shaped by our exceptional cool climate, sun kissed vineyards.

Constantia Glen Three and Constantia Glen Five, named in accordance with the number of Bordeaux varieties in each blend, owe their elegance, complexity and own distinctive character to the unique location of the vineyards and the almost magical extended sunlight hours just below Constantia Neck. Unlike the rest of the valley, the Nek allows extra sunlight onto the vineyards of Constantia Glen ensuring the successful and consistent ripening in this remarkably cool wine growing region.



Winemaker – Justin van Wyk