

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WHALEHAVEN SEASCAPE CHARDONNAY SCORES 97 POINTS AT DECANTER PANEL TASTING 2025

*A five-year evolution of precision and purpose earns global recognition!*

Hermanus, 15 May 2025

In a resounding endorsement of its commitment to innovation and excellence, **Whalehaven Wines** is proud to announce that its **2023 Seascapes Chardonnay** has been awarded an exceptional **97 points** at the **Decanter Panel Tasting 2025**. This top-tier rating is the culmination of five years of focused refinement and bold ambition, solidifying Whalehaven's place among South Africa's premier Chardonnay producers.

Since 2020, Whalehaven has undergone a quiet innovation—driven by **Silvana Bottega**, who brought a renewed vision to the family-owned winery. Embracing a philosophy of small-lot, terroir-focused winemaking, the team began reshaping its Chardonnay program to express the cool-climate purity, minerality, and vibrancy of the **Hemel-en-Aarde Valley** with greater clarity. The breakthrough came with the 2020 Seascapes Chardonnay, a turning point vintage that introduced a more linear, seaside freshness to the wines.

Each subsequent release has built upon that foundation, culminating in the 2023 vintage—a masterful expression crafted with the input of **Master of Wine Richard Kershaw**, who joined the project to guide the evolution of the **Whalehaven Terroir Series**. The Decanter panel praised the wine's "brilliant texture, saline complexity, and striking elegance," noting its finesse and sense of place.

"This score is more than a number—it's recognition of a journey," said **Silvana Bottega**. "Since 2020, we've reimagined what Whalehaven Chardonnay could be. The 2023 Seascapes represents the precision, balance, and emotional resonance we've been working towards."

This latest accolade follows a string of significant international wins for Whalehaven, including:

- **5 Stars** from *Platter's South African Wine Guide* for the 2021 Seascapes Chardonnay
- **Gold Medal and 96 Points** at the *International Wine Challenge*
- A spot in the *Top 10 at Chardonnay du Monde 2025*





Available only via **allocation**, the Whalehaven Seascape Chardonnay continues to attract the attention of global collectors, sommeliers, and prestige restaurants seeking wines with authenticity, elegance, and pedigree.

For more information, please contact:

Whalehaven Winery: [experience@whalehaven.co.za](mailto:experience@whalehaven.co.za)

### **About Whalehaven Wines**

Located at the gateway to the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, Whalehaven Wines is a family-owned winery known for producing world-class wines that reflect the distinctive terroir of this cool-climate, maritime region. With a focus on small-lot, artisanal production, Whalehaven has garnered a reputation for producing elegant, terroir-driven Chardonnays that have earned critical acclaim both locally and internationally. Whalehaven Wines is committed to crafting wines that balance precision, complexity, and a true expression of place. [\*\*www.whalehaven.co.za\*\*](http://www.whalehaven.co.za)

---

#### **WHALEHAVEN WINERY**

T. +27 (0)28 316 1633  
[experience@whalehaven.co.za](mailto:experience@whalehaven.co.za)  
Hemel-en-Aarde Village  
Onrus, 7201



#### **SALES & DISTRIBUTION**

T. +27 (0)21 852 3590  
[orders@bottegafamilywine.co.za](mailto:orders@bottegafamilywine.co.za)

---