

Glenelly

Lady May is Glenelly's flagship wine, an elegant Bordeaux blend that pays tribute to May de Lencquesaing's legacy. This wine combines refinement, power, and a long ageing potential with a mineral-driven freshness.

GLENELLY
STELLENBOSCH



Lady May 2020

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

Lady May originates from the **Simonsberg sub-region of Stellenbosch**, a premier South African terroir known for its ability to produce world-class Bordeaux-style blends. Simonsberg's **cool breezes from False Bay** and its **granite-rich soils** provide the perfect environment for Cabernet Sauvignon and its blending partners to thrive, yielding wines of structure, finesse, and longevity.

The **growing season** began with a late but sufficiently cold winter, ensuring proper vine dormancy. Low rainfall throughout the season necessitated careful water management via drip irrigation to mitigate vine stress. A warm spring brought even bud burst, while small berry sizes and reduced bunch mass contributed to the wine's intensity and concentration. The harvest was earlier and larger than in previous years, reflecting the quality and balance of this exceptional vintage.

Winemaking

Lady May is crafted from a Bordeaux-style blend of **90% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **6% Cabernet Franc**, and **4% Petit Verdot**, highlighting Glenelly's precision in varietal selection. The grapes were **lightly crushed** and underwent fermentation in **stainless steel tanks** using indigenous yeasts. A combination of **rack-and-returns** and **open pump-overs** ensured optimal extraction of color, tannins, and flavor.

Post-fermentation, the wine remained on its skins for **2–3 weeks**, enhancing complexity and structure. Following gentle pressing, it was transferred to **new French oak barrels**, where it underwent malolactic fermentation and aged for **24 months**. During this period, the wine was racked approximately every four months, allowing for the development of its refined character and silky texture.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep, intense ruby with a vibrant core.
- **Aroma**: A sophisticated bouquet of **dark berries**, **cassis**, and **plum**, interwoven with hints of **cedar**, **graphite**, and subtle spice from French oak.
- **Palate**: Fresh and stylish, with a refined mineral edge, dense tannins, and a long, tight finish. Flavors of **blackcurrant**, **dark chocolate**, and a touch of **herbal freshness** provide exceptional balance and depth.

Did you know?

The name **Lady May** honors **May de Lencquesaing**, Glenelly's matriarch and former owner of Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in Bordeaux. Her legacy as a pioneer in global winemaking is embodied in this iconic wine.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast Rack of Lamb with Herb Crust**: The wine's structure and minerality complement the rich, savory flavors of lamb.
- **Beef Wellington**: The tannins and dark fruit notes balance the umami and buttery pastry.
- **Mature Cheddar or Gruyère Cheese**: The wine's complexity pairs beautifully with aged cheeses, enhancing their nutty and sharp profiles.
- **Grilled Portobello Mushrooms**: The earthy flavors of mushrooms match the wine's mineral and dark berry notes.

94 Robert Parker

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2017)

The 2017 Lady May is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon with splashes of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The nose opens with a juicy and generously structured frame with oak essences and spiced black fruit elements. Medium to full-bodied, the palate provides sweet oak flavors with a firm tannic edge before melting away to reveal a fine mineral tension and bright acidity. This beauty has plenty of life left in it and will have no problem aging for a couple more decades. Bravo!

93 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2017)

Intense aromas of ripe black fruit, pine cones, cedar wood, cocoa and wet stones. Plush and broad-shouldered, with full body, dusty tannins and a velvety texture. Generous and complex, with ripe dark fruit on offer and a lingering finish. A blend of 90% cabernet sauvignon, 6% cabernet franc and 4% petit verdot. Sustainable. Drink or hold.

92 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 92 Points (2017)

Raspberry jam and rosemary aromas form an attractive nose. The wine's soft but firm tannins support notes of raspberry, cherry, herbs and smoke. Toasted oak flavors are integrated in this enjoyable full-bodied red.