THE STORY
The Helderberg – named for its beauty, and meaning “clear mountain” or “bright mountain” – rises majestically above the sweeping False Bay. Around this mountain, farmers have planted vines for centuries, discovering that its soils and proximity to the ocean are ideal for the cultivation of premium grapes. In 1906, the Helderberg Winery was established and in that year made their first wines in their new winery on the slopes of the Helderberg. Over the following decades, the winery grew in stature, based on its pedigree of consistently producing excellent red wines, with notably superb Cabernet Sauvignon. The winery was instrumental in establishing the area’s reputation and high regard, and today the Helderberg is widely acknowledged as South Africa’s home of fine red wines. Boekenhoutskloof purchased the property in 2011, and Marc Kent commented, “We believe it has nice synergy with our business in Franschhoek and our investment in the Swartland, and we’re excited to be relaunching the brand.”

Marc Kent is the owner, chief winemaker, and driving force behind Helderberg. A maverick spirit, Marc is unafraid to experiment with the unconventional, but his principal commitment is to quality on every level and in every detail.

THE WINES

Sauvignon Blanc
The Sauvignon Blanc grapes are mostly sourced from cooler blocks on the Helderberg Mountains. A careful selection is made to create a blend with subtle flavor and an appealing roundness. The palate is vibrant, clean, and precise with primary flavors of poached pear, passion fruit, Granny Smith apple, and the gentle citrus aromas of the nose following through. The mid-palate is elegant, round, and very balanced with remarkable integrated acidity and freshness.

Merlot
Careful selection of premium vineyards from Stellenbosch provides optimum quality fruit for the Helderberg Winery Merlot. Cold soaking prior to alcoholic fermentation ensures extraction of color and richness. Soft handling of grapes during fermentation prevents the extraction of harsh tannins and preserves the fruity profile. French oak maturation is done on a portion of the wine while the remainder stays unoaked. With ripe plum and red berry aromas, this wine has smooth, soft tannins and medium weight on the palate. A well-balanced wine with integrated fruit and oak.

Cabernet Sauvignon
Grapes are sourced from the renowned Helderberg mountainous area around Stellenbosch. With its big diurnal range and combination of unique soils such as decomposed dolomite granite, Table Mountain sandstone, and “koffieklip”, these mountains are considered prime terroir for Cabernet Sauvignon in South Africa, often said to contribute to the typical Cape garrigue or fynbos character. The intense dark berry fruit of the nose follows through onto an exceptionally balanced palate with fine-grained, yet rustic, tannins and hints of garrigue.