THE STORY
Lievland, directly translated, means “love land”, and there are few who come to this farm that aren’t charmed by its bucolic beauty. Twenty years ago, Lievland was considered one of South Africa’s top estates. José Conde and Tyrrel Myburgh, partners in MAN Family Wines, purchased the farm in late 2017 with the goal of resurrecting it to its former glory.

“The first time we visited the farm, we were struck by two horses that had adopted a baby springbok. This touching scene inspired our label: Cupid, the god of love, riding a springbok, South Africa’s national animal.”

José Conde, director

THE HISTORY
The farm is situated at the northern end of Stellenbosch, along what is referred to as the Simonsberg “Golden Mile” of wine estates. Lievland was originally part of a much larger estate, Natte Vallei, that was granted to Jurgen Hanekom, a Dutch East India Company woodcutter in 1715. After passing through a number of owners over the years, the farm was divided into its current boundaries in 1934 and sold to the Baron and Baroness Von Stiernhjelm of Latvia who planned to immigrate, looking to escape the strife that was engulfing their homeland. The Baron died before the family left Europe, and the widowed Baroness moved to South Africa with her five children and took over the farm with no previous experience in farming. It was Hendrika, the Baroness, who renamed the farm Lievland, after the birthplace of her husband and children. She was, at the time, unique in being a single woman managing a large Cape wine farm. Poor and totally inexperienced in farming and wine production, with the help of her neighbours and her own powerful drive, she established the vineyards and developed a reputation for the wines. Initially selling door-to-door, she eventually managed more than 173 acres of vineyards - all plowed by horse! Over the years Lievland became known as arguably Stellenbosch’s top Syrah producer. Along the way it garnered several firsts: it is said to be the first to have a female winemaker and the first to produce a certified barrel-fermented Chenin Blanc.

THE VINEYARDS
Lievland is situated within a horseshoe-shaped valley on the northwestern slope of the Simonsberg mountain. The unique bowl-shape of the farm gives it a wide range of microclimates with south, west, and north-facing slopes and elevations from 590-1475 feet. The farm consists of mainly clay-rich decomposed granite soils. Its sheltered position makes for cooler-than-average conditions for Stellenbosch as well as protection against the harsher southern winds.

THE WINES
Old Vines Chenin Blanc
This wine shows off the versatility of old vine Chenin Blanc, upon which South Africa has built a strong reputation. It is a blend of two neighboring old-vine, dry-farmed bushvine vineyards, one planted in 1976 and the other in 1983, with the first giving more stone fruit and mineral characters, the latter giving concentration and texture.

Bushvine Pinotage
This wine shows off a modern, elegant style of Pinotage. The grapes for this wine were selected from two of our partners’ finest bushvine vineyards. One vineyard, located on the western slopes of Paarl mountain, is an early ripener and gives a fresher, brighter fruit style; the second vineyard sits on a bowl of shale and adds a richer, more structured component. The grapes were handled carefully and fermented at cool temperatures to preserve aromatics and pressed early to give a soft, plush mouthfeel.

Cabernet Sauvignon
This wine showcases the art of vineyard selecting and blending. It is mainly based on high-altitude, cooler Stellenbosch vineyards and is complemented by some warmer, dry-land Paarl vineyards. The combination makes for a balanced wine of complexity, ageability, and abundance of fruit. Aiming to also craft a more unique “South African” style of Cabernet, a small amount of Cinsault is blended in to lift the aromatics, along with some Syrah to bring black pepper and other spice notes to the wine.