



Cavalli Chardonnay 2025 Crowned Best Chardonnay at the Investec Trophy Wine Show Recognition from one of South Africa's most respected wine competitions

There are moments in wine that make you pause.
Moments when independent judges, tasting blind and without knowledge of producer, price or reputation, affirm that what is happening in your vineyards and cellar is truly exceptional.
For Cavalli, 2026 has delivered one of those moments.

At the prestigious Investec Trophy Wine Show, celebrating its 25th year in 2026, Cavalli Chardonnay 2025 was awarded the **Trophy for Best Chardonnay** – one of the highest honours available in South African wine.

Widely regarded as one of the country's most respected wine competitions, this year's show attracted more than 650 entries, judged blind by a panel comprising leading South African wine authorities alongside internationally acclaimed Masters of Wine and wine experts.

For Cavalli Chardonnay 2025 to emerge as the finest Chardonnay in such distinguished company is an extraordinary achievement.

More than an award, it is independent recognition of the quality, precision and sense of place that define the wine.

A Wine Defined by Place

Sourced from carefully selected Helderberg vineyards, the Chardonnay reflects the elegance, freshness and restraint that have become hallmarks of the Cavalli style.

Bright natural acidity, purity of fruit and subtle oak integration allow the vineyard to take centre stage, resulting in a wine that is both expressive today and built to evolve beautifully over time.
The award is a powerful affirmation of what we have long believed: that the Helderberg is capable of producing Chardonnay amongst the very finest in South Africa.

As the Investec Trophy Wine Show celebrates a quarter century of recognising excellence in South African wine, we are immensely proud to see Cavalli Chardonnay join the ranks of its trophy winners.

Building Momentum

The Chardonnay Trophy follows an exceptional run of recognition for Cavalli wines in 2026. Earlier this year, our Reserve White 2025 was awarded 95 points and named Best Overall White Wine at the Prescient Winemag White Wine Awards.

At the same awards, our Reserve Chenin Blanc 2025 was recognised amongst the Top 10 Chenin Blancs in South Africa, earning an impressive 93-point rating.
For a producer focused on Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay and Bordeaux varietals, these accolades are particularly meaningful.

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They validate not only individual wines, but a long-term commitment to growing and crafting varieties that are perfectly suited to the Helderberg.

More Than Medals

Awards matter because they provide independent validation.

But medals are ultimately the outcome, not the objective.

Behind every accolade lies years of careful vineyard management, regenerative farming practices, meticulous fruit selection and patient winemaking.

They are the result of a philosophy that prioritises authenticity over fashion and site expression over intervention.

They are also a testament to the exceptional people behind the wines.

Led by acclaimed winemaker Rianie Strydom, Cavalli's winemaking team continues to pursue precision, elegance and authenticity in every bottle, always striving to express the unique character of the Helderberg.

Behind that pursuit stands Lauren Smith, owner and driving force behind Cavalli Estate, whose vision, leadership and unwavering belief in excellence continue to shape the business. Lauren has created a culture that both challenges and inspires, setting high standards while giving her team the freedom to be creative, ambitious and true to their craft.

As a proudly woman-owned estate, with a celebrated female winemaker at the helm, we are particularly proud to see these achievements recognised on a national stage. These accolades are not simply a reflection of outstanding wines, but of the remarkable people and shared commitment behind them.

Thank You

To our loyal wine club members, trade partners, restaurateurs, retailers and supporters – thank you. Every bottle poured, every recommendation made and every wine list placement has contributed to this journey.

Your support allows us to continue investing in our vineyards, our people and our pursuit of excellence.

While we are incredibly proud of this recognition, it serves as motivation rather than destination.

The work continues.

The vineyards continue to evolve.

And we remain committed to crafting wines that reflect the extraordinary place we are fortunate enough to call home.

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2026 Award Highlights

Investec Trophy Wine Show, Trophy for Best Chardonnay

Cavalli Chardonnay 2025

Best Overall White Wine – 95 Points

Cavalli Reserve White 2025

Prescient Winemag White Wine Awards

Top 10 Chenin Blanc in South Africa – 93 Points

Cavalli Reserve Chenin Blanc 2025

From Chardonnay to Chenin Blanc, 2026 has already been a remarkable affirmation of the vision, people and place behind Cavalli Wines.

And we believe the best is still to come.

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