

## Newly launched wine range, Vineyard Friends, is all about farming side by side with nature

[Vineyard Friends](#), a newly launched wine range from [DGB](#), connects the consumer with the natural wildlife and sustainable practices that underpin its wine making principles. The new range which includes [four wines](#); Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, Pinotage and Merlot Malbec, is veggie friendly and 100% GMO free.

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Heroed in its name and design, Vineyard Friends is dedicated to the unique animals of the Cape Winelands that make the precious vineyards their home: the grey duiker, the Cape grey mongoose, the bat-eared fox and the grey heron. These intelligent creatures don't just live in the vineyards where the story of this wine begins. Each animal plays an integral role in the lifecycle of the vineyard, from maintaining soil health to removing pests. This not only ensures a healthy harvest but limits the need for pesticides.

Importantly, it is not just these incredible Cape creatures who are doing their part to create a more sustainable option for South African wine drinkers. In fact, Vineyard Friends is the culmination of [two decades of practical response to environmental challenges](#) and the result of a myriad of [sustainable practices](#) championed by DGB.

DGB is South Africa's leading independent wine and spirits company and the first South African wine company to achieve the Big 5 accreditation certifications; incorporating recognition for environment, quality food safety, health and safety and ethical practices. "At DGB we not only believe commitment to sustainability is the right thing to do – it is the right thing we want to do," says Tim Hutchinson, executive chairman of DGB. "Vineyard Friends is the celebration of the strides we have made in sustainable winemaking thus far. It represents our ongoing commitment to innovate our environmental response from vineyards to the bottle."

The vineyards themselves make use of water saving cover crops while facilities make use of bio-treated grey water in all ablutions and gardens – drastically reducing the use of potable water. Additionally an anaerobic process sees clean water released into the local municipality, to support the community. With 5 million precious litres of irrigation water reclaimed per year to provide the vineyards with the water they require to thrive.

The Vineyard Friends cellar in Wellington has the largest solar photovoltaic energy installation of any wine production facility in South Africa. An 801 kW roof array of 2,400 panels not only offsets 1,265 tonnes of potential CO2 emissions, but also produces clean, surplus energy to be fed into the grid of the neighbourly town and its communities.

Partners and suppliers are chosen very carefully – only working with those who share a commitment to honouring nature and biodiversity through sustainable and ethical practices. Even the Vineyard Friends bottle itself has recycled glass content, is lightweight and includes a label on 100% recycled paper from Enviro Label™.

Despite all of these interventions, the creators of Vineyard Friends know that the journey to sustainability never ends and that the environmental impact of winemaking still remains. That is why a community-led bamboo growing carbon reduction project runs in parallel with the work in the vineyards, the production facilities and on the bottle itself. It is also why there is a continuous commitment to innovating sustainable practices and maintaining world class certifications across ethics and environment.

After all, sustainable winemaking is a team effort. It's about maintaining the delicate balance between flora fauna and the human hand. Great wine is made in the vineyard. Farming side by side with nature – not against it.

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