

# RAISE A GLASS

text  
WADE BALES



## TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA HITS OUR SHORES

What started out as a working-class Texan's passion project has blossomed into a worldwide phenomenon. Tito's Handmade Vodka won the prestigious Judge's Choice Double Gold Award at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition, and fast began to trickle into markets far from its American roots. Today it's loved around the world for its distinctly smooth, sweet taste and crisp finish, courtesy of its corn base, making it naturally gluten-free too. *Available countrywide for about R280 a bottle.*

## TITO'S ALL-TIME FAVOURITE

### Ingredients:

**45ml** Tito's Handmade Vodka  
**120ml** sparkling mineral water  
Slice of orange  
Slice of lime

### Method:

Combine Tito's Handmade Vodka and mineral water in cocktail glass with ice. Stir and garnish with orange and lime slices



## LOURENSFORD'S METAMORPHOSIS

Lourensford Estate has unveiled two flagship wines: the Chrysalis Red Blend 2015 and Chrysalis White Blend 2015. These beauties are an ode to its

legendary terroir, and are made with minimal intervention from selected site specific vines only. A limited quantity is then bottled after intensive barrel selection and blending. *Available from the estate or [lourensford.co.za](http://lourensford.co.za).*

## GETAWAYS FOR THE SERIOUS WINE DRINKER

### STEENBERG HOTEL & SPA

Constantia is not only the oldest wine-making region in the entire southern hemisphere, but it is also home to this world-renowned estate, complete with two top restaurants, a pristine 18-hole golf course and a five-star hotel. [steenbergfarm.com/steenberghotel](http://steenbergfarm.com/steenberghotel)

### DELAIRE GRAFF: THE LODGES

Delaire means "from the sky" an apt name for this luxury estate, which is poised on the crest of the Helshoogte Mountain Pass in Stellenbosch. Panoramic views, sumptuous food, and world-class wine await. [delaire.co.za](http://delaire.co.za)

### LANZERAC HOTEL & SPA

The Lanzerac Hotel & Spa, which is listed among the most prestigious hotels in the world, is set on a 300-year-old country estate and offers the finest hospitality along with some of the best examples of Cape Dutch architecture. [lanzerac.co.za](http://lanzerac.co.za)



### A TOAST TO GUILT-FREE G&TS

Beloved Fitch & Leedes Pink Tonic is now gloriously sugar-free. G&Ts just got a whole lot healthier, with this delicately carbonated and finely balanced tonic that is a perfect match for premium gins. *Available from selected retailers from about R40 for a six-pack of 200ml cans or R36 per four-pack of 200ml glass bottles.*



### JOHNNIE WALKER BLUE KING GEORGE V

This collector's dream commemorates the Royal Warrant of 1934 (which saw Johnnie Walker become the official whisky of the Royal Household), and was created using only the finest whiskies from distilleries operating during King George's twenty-five-year reign (1910-1936). Some, like the famed Port Ellen, no longer exist. Blended together, they reflect the distinctive Johnnie Walker style of that era: opulent, layered, and intense. Each bottle is accompanied by a regal flint glass decanter and a certificate of authenticity with a unique serial number, and costs a cool R7 499.



### WELL, ALOE THERE!

Introducing Whitley Neill Aloe & Cucumber Gin: an African-inspired infusion of cooling cucumber and subtle aloe handmade on a family-owned English distillery that dates back to 1762. Several other African botanicals balance the predominant aloe and cucumber, resulting in a light and oh-so-refreshing gin. *Available from selected retailers at about R300 a bottle.*