

# SPRINGTIME TIPPLES

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WADE BALES



## THE ELEPHANT IN THE VALLEY

Tucked away in the picturesque Franschhoek Valley, a Black Elephant is causing a stir in the wine world. Three friends from distinctly different backgrounds, brought together by a mutual love of wine, have created a range of wines "for real people" They produce their own range of wines, using quality estate-grown grapes cultivated in the Franschhoek Valley, and also provide representation and distribution for select boutique estates and private cellars. [bevintners.co.za](http://bevintners.co.za)



## A COGNAC WITH CHARACTER AND PASSION

### Naked Grouse

Meet whisky at its most uncomplicated. Naked Grouse is matured in first-fill Oloroso sherry oak casks: it's from these "naked" casks that have never held whisky before that takes its name and distinctive flavour. The result: a buttery toffee scent on the nose and a palate of sultanas, rich fudge, and cooked apples. Available at leading liquor retailers from R349 a bottle.



**DEAU BLACK** is a soft, aromatic, and seductive, blend of Grande Champagne and Petite Champagne cognacs. It reveals gentle bouquets of dried plums

and very smooth aromas of preserved fruits that linger on the palate and in the glass. Delicious straight, but also mixed with exotic fruit juices, tonic water, and sodas. Available only at selected liquor retailers, from R2 649.

### TWO RARE SINGLE MALTS COME OF AGE

Bushmills Irish Whiskey has announced the release of two rare, small-batch malts, both of which are matured and finished in three different cask types to create uniquely rich flavour profiles. The complex and fruity Bushmills 16 Year Old is matured beyond its years, with flavours of honeyed nutty maltiness, toasted wood, and sweet port wine. The even rarer Bushmills 21 Year Old exudes a mellow maltiness, with notes of wood and raisin, toffee sweetness, vanilla, dark chocolate, mint, and leather. Available at all major retailers for R1 199 and R2 799, respectively.

### BLIND TIGER GIN

is a small-batch gin hailing from KwaZulu-Natal and taking the world by storm. This three-time International Gold Medal winner is pot-stilled and infused with juniper, coriander, angelica, passion flower and lemongrass. Serve with a slice of orange and your favourite tonic. From R385 a bottle.



## A SPARKLING START TO SPRING

Here's a pair of bubbly to put a spring in your step this season. Grace du Roi MCC Brut, made from chardonnay grapes, is an elegant bubbly with sweet green apple characteristics and a hint of creamy vanilla. Its sister champagne, the Grace du Roi MCC Rose Gold owns a fresh pink hue, with green apples and crisp raspberry on the palate. Available at leading liquor retailers at R140 per bottle.