



VERSAILLES
WINES

The Family

1st Generation – Petrus Johannes Malan

First bought the farm Versailles.

2nd Generation – Jan Gysbert Malan

Petrus Johannes Malan had a son, Jan Gysbert Malan (1846 - 1886).

3rd Generation – Petrus Jacobus “Pieter” Malan

Jan Gysbert Malan had a son and named him Petrus Jacobus “Pieter” Malan (named after his grandfather).

4th Generation – Jan Gysbert Malan

Son of “Oom Pieter” (Petrus Jacobus “Pieter” Malan) – named his son after his father, Jan Gysbert Malan.

5th Generation – M.C. “Tienie” Malan

Jan Gysbert’s son, Martinus Christoffel Malan (“Tienie” Malan).

6th Generation – Annareen Malan

Daughter of M.C. “Tienie” Malan.

7th Generation – Martinet and Christine

Daughters of Annareen Malan.

8th Generation – Wilmien (2021)

Daughter of Martinet.

1st Generation – Petrus Johannes Malan

When Petrus Johannes Malan (1820 - 1899) first bought the Versailles Farm, he could never have anticipated the mark his descendants would make in the town of Wellington.

2nd Generation – Jan Gysbert Malan

Petrus Johannes Malan had a son and named him Jan Gysbert Malan (1846 - 1886).

3rd Generation – Petrus Jacobus “Pieter” Malan

Jan Gysbert Malan had a son and named him Petrus Jacobus “Pieter” Malan (after his grandfather). He was to make the family’s name virtually synonymous with the town of Wellington.

The Train Station

In November 1863, watched by hundreds of thrilled spectators, the first train from Cape Town arrived at the newly constructed Wellington station. Ten years later, the discovery of diamonds made it a national priority to extend the railway line to Kimberley – however, the property through which the proposed rail extension was to run was part of “Oom Pieter” Malan’s farm, better known as Versailles.

The canny businessman agreed to loan the land to the railways, on the strict condition that every passenger train must stop at Wellington Station. This also gave “Oom Pieter” and his cronies an excellent view of passengers on the train; including passengers like Boer Generals de Wet, De la Rey, Botha, Hertzog and Smuts and other high-profile history-makers, such as Presidents Steyn, Reitz and Kruger, as well as Cecil John Rhodes and Jameson.

SAD (South African Dried Fruit Association)

“Oom Pieter” Malan’s practice, that every passenger train should stop at Wellington Station, first began on 1 May 1879 (and is still an unspoken rule). It provided a sorely needed boost for local farmers and irrevocably changed the fortunes of the town, spawning a host of industries including the Wellington Fruit Growers’ Association (which later became SAD). As a prominent local fruit farmer, “Oom Pieter” also played a major role in establishing the now famous SAD (South African Dried Fruit Association), which was to put Wellington on the map. Many years later, other members of the Malan dynasty followed in his footsteps, when grandson “Tienie”, and subsequently, great-granddaughter Annareen, became members of the board at the same company.

The country’s first co-operative winery in 1904 (Wellington Wynkelder and Bovlei Wynkelders)

Together with his brother-in-law, Willie Joubert, “Oom Pieter” was also involved in establishing the country’s first co-operative winery in 1904, becoming both manager and winemaker at the Wellington Wynkelder Koöperatief. He was succeeded by his son, Jan Gysbert Malan, in 1922.

Although the company was eventually liquidated, it was the forerunner of Wellington Wine Cellar (established in 1934) of which, many years later, Jan Gysbert’s son M.C. “Tienie” Malan was to become a shareholding director. The wine-producing gene certainly flowed strongly in the Malan blood, as P.J. Malan also contributed towards the founding of Bovlei Wynkelders in 1907. Over the years, several Malans followed as managers, directors and shareholders of Bovlei Wynkelders.

Town Council

Well over a century ago, the Malans had already firmly entrenched themselves in the decision-making processes of Wellington, with several family members serving on the Town Council (later the Municipal Board). Beginning in 1873, when it was first established, no fewer than nine Malans, including P.J. Malan (1877 - 1880) and his great-great-grandson M.C. "Tienie" Malan (1960 - 1990), were afforded the honour of serving on the Board.

4th Generation – Jan Gysbert Malan

Son of "Oom Pieter" (Petrus Jacobus "Pieter" Malan), Jan Gysbert Malan succeeded his father as manager of Wellington Wynkelder in 1922.

5th Generation – M.C. "Tienie" Malan (A lasting legacy 02.02.1931 - 25.11.2008)

(Jan Gysbert's son, M.C. "Tienie" Malan.)



A fifth generation Wellingtoner, Marthinus Christoffel "Tienie" Malan, was born in February 1931, and raised on the family farm, Versailles, until the age of five. Following the death of his father, the family relocated to a small town in the Transvaal. He then went to Outeniqua High School in a town called George (where he was elected as head boy) and he returned to the Boland to study Agriculture at the well-known Elsenburg College near Stellenbosch (again, elected to be head of the student council).

In 1951, on completing his diploma, the 21-year-old Tienie finally returned to his hometown of Wellington to manage Versailles on his own. Luckily, his mother had the foresight of retaining the farm with a foreman until her son was able to take over.

Member of Town Council

At the tender age of 28, the well-respected, young farmer was elected a member of the Town Council (Municipal Board). Despite his youth, he proved more than equal to the task. During this time, Tienie met and married "Elmine" Roux (herself from a fine old Huguenot family) and, by 1966, three small daughters – Lizelle, Annareen and Martine – were growing up on the family farm. A son, Jan Gysbert, was born in 1973, but sadly, did not outlive his late teens.

Over the next two decades, Tienie Malan served both as Deputy Mayor (five years) and Mayor of Wellington (four years). In honour of outstanding service, he was made "Raadsheer" (Councillor) – one of only two Wellingtoners have held this title. He also served on the Governing Body of the

Western Cape Municipality for five years, spending a total of 28 years on the Wellington Municipal Board.

Director at Wellington Wine Cellars and SAD

From 1980 to 1996, Tienie was also a member of the Board of Directors at Wellington Wine Cellars, in addition to serving as director of the Wellington-based, South African Dried Fruit Growers (SAD), where he remained for 15 years.

Apart from growing and drying his own pears and “Hanepoot” (Muscat d’Alexandrie) raisins, he also actively assisted his daughter, Annareen, in creating her award-winning Malan de Versailles wines. Today, the name of this energetic grandfather still opens doors, and he will always be remembered with great fondness and respect for his dedication and commitment to the town of Wellington.

Elmine Roux – Behind every successful man

Engela Elizabeth Wilhelmina Roux (“Elmine”) was born in Paarl in 1940 and grew up on a part of the historic De Hoop Farm, which has been in Roux hands since 1840.

Dressed to impress, dancing on sunshine and a love for speed

Elmine, a woman who embodies the word “grace”, is famous for her impeccable fashion, styled by the legendary Errol Arends. She would always manage to steal the show on Tienie’s arm. Elmine also has a great love for ballet and modern dance and performed around the country with her dance group. She is famous for her taste in fast and beautiful cars – a love she inherited from her late father who would always take her on his “not-so-slow” Sunday drive adventures.



Rembrandt

Elmine’s father also had the foresight to be one of the first investors in the now gigantic Rembrandt Group, having personally purchased shares from the late, legendary Dr Anton Rupert himself. As a result, it was a very well-connected young Elmine who attended school at Girls' High in Paarl, and subsequently became a receptionist at KWV.

KWV

As with her future husband’s family, a love of wine farming ran strongly in the Roux blood. It was on De Hoop Farm, in the home of her grandfather, Paul, that the concept of local farmers forming a co-operative winery in Paarl was born. In 1918, the now world-famous KWV was established, with Paul Roux as a founder-member.

Love at first sight

It was at KWV, at the tender age of 21, that she met her future husband, Tienie Malan. At 30, this handsome, successful man was almost a decade older, but Elmine managed to ensnare one of the

Boland's "most eligible bachelors", and (after a whirlwind courtship) they got married on 25 March 1961.

The couple remained together until Tienie's death in 2008. Although beset by many trials and tribulations over the years, Elmine stood by her man, and remains, to this day, the quiet strength and backbone of the Malan family.

Farming in honour of her husband

In 2008, after the death of her husband, Tienie, she was faced with the decision to either sell the farm or keep going. The brave and adventurous Elmine never backed down from a challenge before, so she decided to keep her and her husband's legacy alive.

6th Generation – Annareen Malan – The new chapter

Daughter of M.C. "Tienie" and Elmine Malan – Annareen Malan.

The second daughter of Tienie and Elmine Malan, Annareen, was born in Wellington in 1964 and grew up on the family farm, Versailles. A popular and outgoing youngster, she attended school in Wellington, excelling at sport and showing a flair for leadership from an early age.



Having an aptitude for figures, she received a BEcon at Stellenbosch University and entered the financial sector, where she worked for several years. In 1988, she married Lesley de Reuck, and their union produced two daughters – Martinet (born 1991) and Christine (born 1995).

In 1999, when Tienie retired from the SAD, Annareen made history by becoming the first ever female director to be elected to the company board – a landmark achievement, but a minor challenge compared to what she was yet to face.

In the footsteps of her forefathers

In the 1990's, Versailles was planted with orchards and vineyards bearing a number of fine wine cultivars, but the untimely death of young Jannie Malan had left a void. He had been groomed as Tienie's natural successor, and for many years it seemed that there would be no one to take over the reins. Despite Annareen's deep farming roots, she had long favoured figures over farming, so when she returned home to Versailles, it was merely to assist her father with the administration of the farm. However, the dawn of a new century was also a time of new beginnings for Annareen, and she began to realise that despite her gender and lack of experience, her destiny was to continue the long farming tradition established by the Malan family.

Starting the Malan de Versailles Range

Annareen had the vision to start the Versailles Wines and Malan de Versailles ranges. With roughly three-quarters of the farm under vine, the logical choice was to make wine, with Shiraz being the

safest, most reliable option for a beginner. In 2003, under the watchful eye of her father, Tienie, the grapes were harvested, and for the first time in 100 years wine was once again matured in the original Versailles Cellar, assisted by winemaker Lofty Ellis, a lecturer from Elsenburg College in Stellenbosch.

The eagerly awaited final product, which emerged after nine months, was to bear the proud name of Malan de Versailles. Expecting a modest commendation for their first effort, Annareen and her father entered their 2003 maiden Shiraz vintage into the prestigious annual Veritas Wine Competition and were surprised and delighted to be awarded a coveted silver medal.

Garnering a bronze medal the following year for the 2004 Shiraz proved that their achievement was more than just “beginner’s luck”! It seems that Annareen’s fledgling winemaking venture was truly blessed by her Huguenot ancestors, for the reputation of the excellent Malan de Versailles wines has grown from strength to strength.

Elmine Malan – The Sparkling Wine

Annareen wanted to honour her mother, Elmine Malan, with something special and created the Elmine Malan Sparkling Wine. This is to represent her beautiful spirit and the role that she played in building the Malan and Versailles farm legacy with her husband, Tienie. Without Elmine Malan there would be no legacy.

7th Generation – Martinet and Christine – The upcoming youngsters

Annareen and Lesley de Reuck had two daughters – Martinet (born 1991) and Christine (born 1995). The two sisters will keep the family legacy going and they are focused on growing the farm, businesses and the people working for Versailles. Measured by the impact to create a better world for the next generation, they are following in the footsteps of the forefathers.

Both sisters grew up in Wellington, attending Hugo Rust Primary School and Huguenot High School (having some of the same teachers as their mother and late uncle, Jannie Malan). Martinet studied marketing at the AAA School of Advertising, specialising in brand management, account management and media management (finishing second in her class). As the eldest, she is the first to join the Versailles team and is patiently waiting for her sister, Christine, who is on her way to become a CA, with a BCompt Degree (Bachelor of Accounting Science) and CTA already done.

Martinet married Bernardt van der Spuy, and the couple moved into the Manor House where Tienie and Elmine Malan lived for about 60 years. They had a daughter (Wilmien – born 31 May 2021) which is now the **eighth generation** growing up on Versailles Farm.