



Introduction

The Good Hope Quilters' Guild Mystery Quilt 2025

www.goodhopequiltersguild.org.za

The Cape Winelands Quilt

84" x 84"

by Dewald Compion



Photo: Dawie van Niekerk

Happy New Year! Warm wishes from Cape Town for a very prosperous 2025. May it be a year filled with many happy memories and good times with your family and friends (old and new). Pop the MCC (Méthode Cap Classique... better known as bubbly) and celebrate with us as we wish you a year filled with fantastic sewing projects, an endless supply of beautiful fabric, finishing UFO's, bobbins that don't run out of thread and seam rippers that will gather dust. Hear hear, cheers, gezondheid!

I am very excited to take you on a journey for the next few weeks as we explore the Cape Winelands and celebrate everything this magnificent area has to offer.

Introduction

Another year, another mystery quilt. We have seen amazing mystery quilts over the past few years as people from all over the globe join us annually for the GHQG Mystery Quilt Challenge. It never ceases to amaze me how different the same design can look when using different colour combinations or by switching the suggested light and dark fabrics.

I know I said it before, and I'll say it again... mystery quilts are not everybody's cup of tea. Not knowing what you are making and how to select and use fabric can be a bit daunting. And not working at your own pace can be frustrating. But I still love making them. I love the surprise when it all comes together.

So why should you think of joining a mystery quilt-along?

- To have some fun. There's something very intriguing about making well known traditional and very familiar blocks, and not knowing how they all fit together. Just let go and trust the process!
- Use up some old forgotten fabric that you never knew what to do with. Even if you don't like the final design, it won't be such a big loss.
- Plan to make this quilt with someone in mind and gift it to them when you are done. Or maybe even better, decide to gift it to someone in need.
- Learn some new techniques or sharpen up some rusty skills.
- Play with different layouts of the finished blocks while you wait for the next week's clue. Many new ideas were born from seeing how people arrange the blocks trying to guess the final design of the quilt top. It may just be the inspiration for a new project.
- It's a social thing! Get together in groups and have sewing days to encourage and help each other to stay motivated and remember to have fun! Get your friends to join in and join us from all over the world and share your progress on Facebook and Instagram.
- Meet new people and learn from each other. Share ideas and tips.
- Even though this pattern is for people with intermediate skills in piecing, it could be the perfect project for beginner quilters to experiment with different forms of piecing. I will give detailed instructions with explanatory diagrams and photos with each clue to help you along the way.

The Cape Winelands Quilt is a modern quilt design. I will cover a range of quilting techniques, including traditional piecing, foundation paper piecing (FPP) and even sewing curves (do not panic! This is new to me too, and we'll cross this bridge together. And I will provide an alternative method if you really don't want to bungee jump with me). Many of the FPP blocks can also be made using traditional methods. Printable templates for cutting the fabric will be made available each week. I do however suggest the FPP method for these blocks as it always ensures much neater blocks and sharper points. **Save your templates as you will re-use some of the templates in coming weeks.**

There will be a new clue released each week, which will allow you enough time to make the required number of blocks. Some weeks will be a bit more challenging than others, and I will

space the clues to allow you to catch up in the weeks with less challenging blocks, should you fall behind. But I cannot stress enough:

This is not a race!

The people of Cape Town are known to be laid back and relaxed... the tranquillity and beauty of the Cape Winelands is hugely responsible for this. The clues will remain on GHQG website until the end of 2025. Enjoy the journey and stitch at your own pace. I want you to have fun with this project and complete it in your own time.

Quilt Size: 84" x 84"

Block Size: 6" x 6" finished

Difficulty Level: Intermediate

Fabric Requirements

This quilt is designed using four shades of fabric. I chose the safe option of blue and white. It reminds me of the Cape Dutch heritage on the wine farms, with the traditional blue and white crockery.



White (Background)



Light Blue



Medium Blue



Dark Blue

You can choose to use three shades of the same colour, or mix it up with three completely different colours, as long as the contrast between the light, medium and dark fabrics is distinctive enough. You can use solids or non-directional prints. I usually take a black and white photo of the different fabric options if I'm not sure if there is enough contrast – the values are usually much more evident if you evaluate it in shades of grey.

You will need *at least* the following fabric ($\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance included):

		42" useable width of fabric (WOF)	32" useable WOF (Shweshwe)
White	Background/Fabric 1	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ m	3 m
Light Blue	Fabric 2	2 $\frac{1}{8}$ m	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ m
Medium Blue	Fabric 3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ m
Dark Blue	Fabric 4	3 m	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ m

You can also choose to switch your lights and darks and have a dark background. Maybe you find inspiration in the colours of the Cape Winelands. Choose autumn rich and warm oranges, yellows, reds and maroons. Or maybe the colours of different wine cultivars may inspire you: plums, reds,

pinks and yellows... think cheese and wine platters. Or just go with your favourite colour combinations and see how they merrily party together. The options are endless.

General sewing “rules” apply:

- Clean your machine before you start a new project and remember to add a splash of machine oil. Happy machine, happy quilter.
- Use sharp tools: needles, pins, blades.
- Ensure you have enough fabric. Always have a little bit extra to accommodate for the “glipsies” – it won’t go wasted.
- Read thrice, measure twice, cut once.
- All instructions are based on using a ¼” seam allowance.
- Make use of good lighting to avoid strain on your eyes.
- Take frequent breaks and do stretches after prolonged periods of stitching to take care of your body.

Even though this mystery quilt is inspired by the Cape Winelands, most general drinking “rules” do NOT apply:

- This project is recommended for persons under the age of 18 too.
- You can do this project while pregnant and breastfeeding.
- You can safely use your sewing machine while enjoying a glass of wine (large volumes are however not recommended to avoid personal injury and wonky blocks).

WARNING: Quilting is Highly Addictive.

GHQG will not be held responsible for any incidents resulting from time spent on this project (except of course for having fun!) Support groups in the form quilting groups and guilds are available worldwide – please contact your nearest group and join them for assistance and further support as needed.

Enjoy the next few weeks in our company, irresponsibly.

Happy Stitching!

Please share your progress pics on the sew-cial networks tag
@ghqg_south_africa and @compiondl

Post with the hashtags #GHQGMysteryQuilt #thecapewinelandsqilt on
Instagram and Facebook

You are welcome to contact me if you have any questions:
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The Cape Winelands

The Cape Winelands is a renowned wine-producing region in the Western Cape of South Africa, located just outside of Cape Town. It's famous for its picturesque landscapes, with dramatic mountain backdrops, rolling vineyards, and charming towns. The area is one of the world's premier wine regions and plays a significant role in South Africa's wine industry.

The Cape Winelands includes several sub-regions, each known for producing different types of wine, and include

- Stellenbosch: Known for its high-quality red wines, especially Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.
- Paarl: Famous for its bold reds and also produces exceptional Chenin Blanc and Shiraz.
- Franschhoek: Known for its French heritage, this area is famous for its elegant wines, particularly Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay.
- Robertson/Klein Karoo: Known for its white wines, especially Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, and also for producing excellent sparkling wines.
- Wellington/Tulbagh: Produces a variety of wines, with a focus on red wine varieties like Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon.
- Other regions include: Durbanville, Swartland, Constantia and Overberg areas.

The region is visually stunning, with vineyards sprawling across lush valleys, framed by the majestic mountains of the Hottentots-Holland, Simonsberg, and Drakenstein ranges.

The Mediterranean climate (hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters) combined with a diversity of soil types makes this region ideal for viticulture. The cool sea breezes from the Atlantic Ocean and the influence of nearby mountains further contribute to the unique terroir that helps produce wines with distinctive flavours and characteristics.

The region produces a wide range of wines, but some of the most notable styles include:

- Red wines: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinotage, and Shiraz.
- White wines: Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and the increasingly popular Viognier.

Visitors to the Cape Winelands can enjoy wine tasting tours, visit historic estates, dine at world-class restaurants, and explore quaint towns like Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, and Paarl. Many wineries also offer luxury accommodations and exclusive wine experiences.