

Robert Parker Bewertungen Südafrika September 2011

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<http://www.erobertparker.com/>

Robert Parker Bewertungen Südafrika vom September 2011		
Produzent Wein	Jahr	Parker Punkte
A A Badenhorst Family Wines Funky White Blend	NV	91
A A Badenhorst Family Wines Noble Late Harvest	2008	93
A A Badenhorst Family Wines Red	2007	93
A A Badenhorst Family Wines Secateurs Chenin Blanc	2010	89
A A Badenhorst Family Wines Secateurs Red Blend	2010	90
A A Badenhorst Family Wines Secateurs Rose	2011	87
A A Badenhorst Family Wines White	2009	92
Anthonij Rupert Wines Cabernet Franc	2006	94
Anthonij Rupert Wines Cabernet Sauvignon	2006	93
Anthonij Rupert Wines Cape Of Good Hope Laing Semillon	2010	89
Anthonij Rupert Wines Cape Of Good Hope Serruria Chardonnay	2010	92
Anthonij Rupert Wines Cape Of Good Hope Van Lill & Visser Chenin Blanc	2010	89
Anthonij Rupert Wines Protea Chardonnay	2009	87
Anthonij Rupert Wines Protea Chenin Blanc	2010	87
Anthonij Rupert Wines Protea Sauvignon Blanc	2010	87
Anthonij Rupert Wines Syrah	2006	86
Anwilka	2008	90
Ashbourne Hemel en Aarde Valley	2007	90
Ashbourne Sandstone (Sauvignon Blanc)	2007	84
Ataraxia Chardonnay	2005	86
Ataraxia Chardonnay	2009	93
Ataraxia Mountain Vineyard Serenity Western Cape	2005	88
Ataraxia Mountain Vineyard Serenity Western Cape	2007	88
Ataraxia Sauvignon Blanc	2005	87
Ataraxia Sauvignon Blanc	2010	90



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Avondale Wine Estate Anima Chenin Blanc	2009	90
Avondale Wine Estate Cyclus	2009	91
Avondale Wine Estate Jonty's Ducks White	2010	85
Avondale Wine Estate Samsara Syrah	2006	90
Babylon's Peak Private Cellar Syrah	2007	85
Babylon's Peak Private Cellar Viognier	2009	86
Backsberg Estate Chardonnay	2009	86
Backsberg Estate Chenin Blanc	2010	87
Backsberg Estate Family Reserve Red	2005	86
Backsberg Estate John Martin Sauvignon Blanc	2009	82
Backsberg Estate Kosher Chardonnay	2009	86
Bartinney Private Cellar Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	87
Bartinney Private Cellar Chardonnay	2009	89
Beau Constantia Cecily Viognier	2010	92
Beyerskloof Beyerskloof	1999	89
Beyerskloof Cape Blend Faith	2008	91
Beyerskloof Chenin Blanc / Pinotage	2011	86
Beyerskloof Diesel Pinotage	2008	91
Beyerskloof Pinotage	2010	87
Beyerskloof Reserve Pinotage	2003	88
Beyerskloof Reserve Pinotage	2008	90
Beyerskloof Synergy Reserve	2001	86
Beyerskloof Synergy Reserve	2008	87
Black Oystercatcher Sauvignon Blanc	2010	88
Black Oystercatcher White Pearl Sauvignon / Semillon	2008	86
Black Pearl Vineyards Oro	2008	91
Boekenhoutskloof Cabernet Sauvignon	2006	90
Boekenhoutskloof Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	89
Boekenhoutskloof Chocolate Block Franschhoek	2009	90
Boekenhoutskloof Noble Late Harvest Semillon	2008	89
Boekenhoutskloof Semillon	2003	89
Boekenhoutskloof Semillon	2008	90
Boekenhoutskloof Syrah	2006	94
Boekenhoutskloof Syrah	2008	93
Boekenhoutskloof The Journeyman	2007	90
Bosman Family Vineyards Adama White Blend	2010	90
Botanica Wines Chenin Blanc	2009	91
Bouchard Finlayson Blanc de Mer	2010	86
Bouchard Finlayson Chardonnay Sans Barrique	2010	90
Bouchard Finlayson Galpin Peak Pinot Noir Walker Bay	2008	88
Bouchard Finlayson Galpin Peak Pinot Noir Walker Bay	2009	89
Bouchard Finlayson Hannibal	2008	86



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Bouchard Finlayson Kaaimansgat Chardonnay	2003	91
Bouchard Finlayson Kaaimansgat Chardonnay	2008	92
Bouchard Finlayson Limited Edition Kaaimansgat Chardonnay	2009	91
Bouchard Finlayson Missionvale Chardonnay	2009	87
Bouchard Finlayson Sauvignon Blanc	2010	89
Bouchard Finlayson Tete de Cuvee Galpin Peak Pinot Noir	2009	90
Buitenverwachting Blanc	2010	88
Buitenverwachting Cabernet Franc	2006	86
Buitenverwachting Husseys Vlei Sauvignon Blanc	2007	90
Buitenverwachting Husseys Vlei Sauvignon Blanc	2010	91+
Buitenverwachting Sauvignon Blanc Beyond	2010	85
Cape Chamonix Chardonnay	2009	91
Cape Chamonix Chardonnay Reserve	2009	93
Cape Chamonix Greywacke Pinotage	2008	89
Cape Chamonix Pinot Noir Reserve	2009	90
Cape Chamonix Sauvignon Blanc Reserve	2009	90
Cape Chamonix Troika	2009	91
Cape Point Vineyards Chardonnay	2010	87
Cape Point Vineyards Isliedh Sauvignon Blanc	2010	93
Cape Point Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc	2010	89
Cape Point Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc Reserve	2010	92
Catherine Marshall 11 Barrels Reserve Pinot Noir	2009	87
Catherine Marshall SMG	2008	86
Catherine Marshall White Label Pinot Noir	2010	86
Cederberg Private Cellar David Nieuwoudt Ghost Corner Sauvignon Blanc	2010	91
Cederberg Private Cellar David Nieuwoudt Ghost Corner Semillon	2009	90
Cederberg Private Cellar Shiraz	2008	90
Colmant Brut Chardonnay	NV	92
Colmant Brut Reserve	NV	92
Colmant Brut Rose	NV	87
Constantia Glen Five	2008	89
Constantia Glen Sauvignon Blanc	2010	83
Constantia Glen Three	2008	86
Creation Syrah	2009	93
Creation Syrah / Grenache	2009	92
Crystallum Clay Shales Chardonnay	2008	86
Crystallum Clay Shales Chardonnay	2009	92
Crystallum Cuvee Cinema Pinot Noir	2008	85
Crystallum Cuvee Cinema Pinot Noir	2009	91
Crystallum Peter Max Pinot Noir	2008	89
Crystallum Peter Max Pinot Noir	2009	90
Crystallum The Agnes Chardonnay	2009	88



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De Grendel Rubaiyat	2007	87
De Krans Cape Ruby Port	NV	88
De Krans Cape Tawny Port	NV	92
De Krans Cape Vintage Reserve	2008	90
De Morgenzon Chenin Blanc	2005	93
De Morgenzon Chenin Blanc	2006	88
De Morgenzon Chenin Blanc	2007	94
De Morgenzon Chenin Blanc	2008	91
De Morgenzon Dmz Chardonnay	2010	88
De Morgenzon Dmz Sauvignon Blanc	2010	87
De Morgenzon Dmz Syrah	2010	(87-89)
De Morgenzon Reserve Chenin Blanc	2009	93
De Morgenzon Reserve Chenin Blanc	2010	(92-94)
De Toren Book Xvii	2010	(90-92)
De Toren Director's Reserve Fusion V	2009	90
De Toren Fusion V	2009	87
De Toren Fusion Z	2009	89
De Trafford Blueprint Shiraz	2007	87
De Trafford Blueprint Shiraz	2008	90
De Trafford Cabernet Sauvignon	2006	88
De Trafford Cabernet Sauvignon	2007	88
De Trafford Chenin Blanc	2009	88
De Trafford Chenin Blanc	2010	90
De Trafford Elevation 393	2005	90
De Trafford Elevation 393	2006	90
De Trafford Merlot	2005	86
De Trafford Merlot	2006	89
De Trafford Shiraz	2007	92
De Trafford Shiraz	2008	90
De Wetshof Estate Bateleur Chardonnay	2009	90
De Wetshof Estate Bon Vallon Chardonnay	2009	85
De Wetshof Estate Bon Vallon Chardonnay	2011	89
De Wetshof Estate Chardonnay d'Honneur	2004	91
De Wetshof Estate Chardonnay d'Honneur	2006	92
De Wetshof Estate Chardonnay Lesca	2009	88
De Wetshof Estate Limestone Chardonnay	2010	87
De Wetshof Estate Methode Cap Classique	NV	87
De Wetshof Estate Nature In Concert Pinot Noir	2009	84
De Wetshof Estate Noble Late	2005	86
De Wetshof Estate Riesling	2009	85
De Wetshof Estate Sauvignon Blanc	2011	86
De Wetshof Estate The Site Chardonnay	2009	90



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Diemersfontein Carpe Diem Viognier	2009	89
Diemersfontein Pinotage	2010	85
Durbanville Hills Pinotage	2008	88
Durbanville Hills Rhinofields Sauvignon Blanc	2010	87
Durbanville Hills Sauvignon Blanc	2010	86
Eagles' Nest Shiraz	2008	91
Eagles' Nest Verreux	2008	90
Eagles' Nest Viognier	2009	93
Edgbaston G S Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	87
Edgbaston Shiraz	2008	86
Edgbaston Finlayson Family Vineyards The Berry Box	2009	88
Edgbaston Finlayson Family Vineyards The Pepper Pot	2010	87
Ernie Els	2008	90
Ernie Els Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	89
Ernie Els Merlot	2009	89
Ernie Els Signature	2006	93
Ernie Els The Big Easy	2009	90
Ernst Gouws & Co Chenin Blanc	2010	91
Ernst Gouws & Co Pinotage	2009	88
Ernst Gouws & Co Sauvignon Blanc	2010	90
Ernst Gouws & Co Shiraz	2008	89
Excelsior Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	85
Excelsior Estate Chardonnay	2010	88
Fairview Caldera	2008	90
Fairview Eenzaamheid Shiraz	2009	92
Fairview La Beryl Chenin Blanc	2009	87
Fairview La Capra Chardonnay	2009	85
Fairview The Beacon Shiraz	2007	92
Fairview Viognier	2009	89
Fleur du Cap Bergkelder Chenin Blanc	2010	85
Fleur du Cap Bergkelder Merlot	2009	88
Fleur du Cap Bergkelder Pinotage	2009	85
Fleur du Cap Bergkelder Sauvignon Blanc	2010	85
Fleur du Cap Bergkelder Shiraz	2009	88
Fleur du Cap Chardonnay	2010	85
Fleur du Cap Merlot Unfiltered	2009	88
Fleur du Cap Sauvignon Blanc Unfiltered	2010	88
Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	89
Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Chardonnay	2009	87
Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Noble Late Harvest	2009	87
Glen Carlou Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	88
Glen Carlou Chardonnay	2001	91
Glen Carlou Chardonnay	2010	89



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Glen Carlou Grand Classique	1999	89
Glen Carlou Grand Classique	2008	92
Glen Carlou Gravel Quarry Cabernet Sauvignon	2007	92
Glen Carlou Natural Sweet Chenin Blanc	2009	90
Glen Carlou Quartz Stone Chardonnay	2009	92
Glen Carlou Syrah	2007	89
Glenelly Grand Vin Chardonnay	2010	92
Glenelly Grand Vin de Glenelly	2007	91
Glenelly Grand Vin de Glenelly	2008	93
Glenelly Lady May	2008	93
Glenelly Lady May	2009	94
Glenelly The Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	90
Glenelly The Glass Collection Chardonnay	2010	89
Glenelly The Glass Collection Merlot	2009	88
Glenelly The Glass Collection Shiraz	2009	91
Graceland Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	91
Graceland Merlot	2009	89
Graceland Three Graces	2009	92
Graham Beck Blanc de Blancs	2007	90
Graham Beck Bowed Head Chenin Blanc	2009	88
Graham Beck Brut	NV	87
Graham Beck Brut Rose	2008	89
Graham Beck Brut Rose	NV	89
Graham Beck Chardonnay	2009	89
Graham Beck Chardonnay / Viognier	2010	86
Graham Beck Cuvee Clive	2005	91
Graham Beck Game Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	86
Graham Beck Game Reserve Sauvignon Blanc	2010	85
Graham Beck Hms Rattlesnake	2009	86
Graham Beck HMS Victorious Chenin Blanc	2010	86
Graham Beck Merlot	2008	83
Graham Beck Pheasant's Run Sauvignon Blanc	2009	88
Graham Beck Pinotage	2009	85
Graham Beck Shiraz / Cabernet Sauvignon	2010	87
Graham Beck Shiraz / Viognier	2010	87
Graham Beck The Game Reserve Chenin Blanc	2009	88
Graham Beck The Game Reserve Shiraz	2007	88
Graham Beck The Joshua Syrah / Viognier	2008	89
Graham Beck The Ridge Shiraz Franschoek / Robertson	2008	90
Graham Beck The William Cabernet / Pinotage	2007	88
Groot Constantia Sauvignon Blanc	2010	87
Guardian Peak Frontier Red	2010	87
Guardian Peak Lapa Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	88



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Guardian Peak Merlot	2010	87
Guardian Peak Syrah	2010	89
Hamilton Russell Chardonnay	2005	92
Hamilton Russell Chardonnay	2008	92
Hamilton Russell Chardonnay	2009	94
Hamilton Russell Chardonnay	2010	93
Hamilton Russell Pinot Noir	2005	86
Hamilton Russell Pinot Noir	2006	90
Hamilton Russell Pinot Noir	2007	93
Hamilton Russell Pinot Noir	2008	86
Hamilton Russell Pinot Noir	2009	93
Hartenberg Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	2007	90
Hartenberg Estate Cabernet Sauvignon / Shiraz	2008	87
Hartenberg Estate Chardonnay	2008	89
Hartenberg Estate Gravel Hill Shiraz (Cape Winemakers Guild)	2006	91
Hartenberg Estate Merlot	2008	90
Hartenberg Estate Sauvignon Blanc	2010	89
Hartenberg Estate Shiraz	2007	92
Hartenberg Estate The Eleanor Chardonnay	2007	91
Hartenberg Estate The Mackenzie Bordeaux Blend	2007	90
Hartenberg Estate The Stork Shiraz	2007	91
Hartenberg Estate Weisser Riesling	2009	87
Intellego Wines Chenin Blanc	2009	91
Iona Chardonnay	2009	92
Iona Sauvignon Blanc	2003	88
Iona Sauvignon Blanc	2009	89
Iona Sauvignon Blanc	2010	90
Iona Shiraz	2007	92
Iona The Gunnar	2006	91
Jean Daneel Signature Chenin Blanc	2010	88
Jean Daneel Signature Red	2008	86
Jordan Bradgate Syrah	2009	90
Jordan Bradgate White	2010	86
Jordan Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	87
Jordan Chardonnay	2009	90
Jordan Chenin Blanc	2009	87
Jordan Mellifera Noble Late Harvest Riesling	2010	85
Jordan Nine Yards Chardonnay	2009	91
Jordan Riesling	2009	88
Jordan The Outlier Sauvignon Blanc	2009	87
Jordan The Prospector Syrah	2008	90
Jordan Unoaked Chardonnay	2010	86
Kanonkop Black Label Pinotage	2006	91



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Kanonkop Cabernet Sauvignon	1998	84
Kanonkop Cabernet Sauvignon	2007	90
Kanonkop Kadette	2009	85
Kanonkop Kadette Rose	2010	86
Kanonkop Paul Sauer Stellenbosch	1994	84
Kanonkop Paul Sauer Stellenbosch	2008	90
Kanonkop Pinotage Stellenbosch	1999	90
Kanonkop Pinotage Stellenbosch	2009	89
Katkabbies Syrah Reserve	2004	88
Keermont Vineyards Fleurfontein	2010	92
Keermont Vineyards Keermont	2007	92
Keermont Vineyards Keermont	2008	90
Keermont Vineyards Syrah	2009	94
Keermont Vineyards White Blend Terrasse	2010	91
Ken Forrester Chenin Blanc	2009	89
Ken Forrester Merlot	2009	88
Ken Forrester Petit Cabernet / Merlot	2010	90
Ken Forrester Petit Chenin Blanc	2010	89
Ken Forrester Petit Pinotage	2010	87
Ken Forrester Petit Rose	2010	86
Ken Forrester Renegade	2006	91
Ken Forrester Reserve Chenin Blanc	2003	91
Ken Forrester Reserve Chenin Blanc	2010	92
Ken Forrester Sauvignon Blanc	2010	87
Ken Forrester The FMC	2009	93
Ken Forrester The Gypsy	2007	93
Ken Forrester Three Halves	2005	93
Klein Constantia Brut	2007	87
Klein Constantia Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	88
Klein Constantia Marlbrook	2008	88
Klein Constantia Mme Marlbrook	2008	88
Klein Constantia Sauvignon Blanc	2010	90
Klein Constantia Vin de Constance Natural Sweet Wine	2006	95
Kleinood Tamboerskloof Viognier	2010	86
Kloovenberg Barrel Fermented Chardonnay	2010	85
Kloovenberg Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	86
Kloovenberg Shiraz	2008	86
KWV The Mentors Orchestra	2009	90
KWV The Mentors Pinotage	2009	86
KWV The Mentors Shiraz	2009	86
La Motte Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	91
La Motte Cap Classique Brut	2008	85



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La Motte Chardonnay	2009	90
La Motte Hanneli R	2005	90
La Motte Millenium	2008	92
La Motte Pierneef Sauvignon Blanc	2010	92
La Motte Pierneef Shiraz / Grenache	2007	93
La Motte Pierneef Shiraz / Viognier	2008	93
La Motte Sauvignon Blanc	2010	89
La Motte Shiraz	2008	93
Lammershoek Chenin Blanc	2010	(87-89)
Lammershoek Chenin Blanc / Viognier	2010	(88-90)
Lammershoek Harslevelu	2010	(87-89)
Lammershoek Lam Rose	2010	87
Lammershoek Mourvedre	2010	(90-92)
Lammershoek Roulette Blanc	2009	87
Lammershoek Roulette Blanc	2010	(90-92)
Lammershoek Roulette Rouge Swartland	2007	88
Lammershoek Syrah	2008	86
Lammershoek Syrah	2010	(88-90)
Le Riche Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	89
Le Riche Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot	2009	89
Le Riche Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve	2008	92
Lomond Wines Cape Agulhas Snowbush White Blend	2008	88
Lomond Wines Pincushion Sauvignon Blanc	2009	89
Lomond Wines Sugarbush Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc	2009	85
Lynx Shiraz	2009	89
Lynx The Lynx	2008	90
Lynx Viognier	2010	87
Lynx Xanache	2009	86
Meerlust Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	91
Meerlust Chardonnay	2009	90
Meerlust Merlot	2008	88
Meerlust Pinot Noir	2009	89
Meerlust Rubicon	2007	89
Miles Mossop Kika	2009	94
Miles Mossop Saskia	2009	91
Mischa Estate Estate Merlot	2009	87
Mischa Estate Mischa Roussanne	2010	87
Morgenhof Estate Chardonnay	2009	86
Morgenhof Estate Estate	2004	87
Morgenhof Estate Merlot	2007	86
Morgenhof Estate Sauvignon Blanc	2010	88
Morgenster Italian Collection Nabucco	2008	86



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Morgenster Italian Collection Tosca	2008	86
Morgenster Lourens River Valley	2000	87
Morgenster Lourens River Valley	2003	90
Morgenster Lourens River Valley	2004	91
Morgenster Lourens River Valley	2005	92
Morgenster Lourens River Valley	2006	90+
Morgenster Lourens River Valley	2008	89
Morgenster Morgenster	2001	89
Morgenster Morgenster	2003	93
Morgenster Morgenster	2005	93
Morgenster Morgenster	2006	94
Morgenster Morgenster	2008	90
Mulderbosch Barrel Fermented Chardonnay	2007	85
Mulderbosch Chardonnay	2008	87
Mulderbosch Chenin Blanc (Steen Op Hout)	2010	84
Mulderbosch Faithful Hound	2008	87
Mulderbosch Sauvignon Blanc	2010	85
Mulderbosch Sauvignon Blanc Noble Late Harvest	2008	85
Mullineux Family Wines Granite Syrah	2010	93
Mullineux Family Wines Kloof Street Chenin Blanc	2011	88
Mullineux Family Wines Kloof Street Rouge	2009	89
Mullineux Family Wines Schist Syrah	2010	93
Mullineux Family Wines Straw Wine	2010	94
Mullineux Family Wines Syrah	2009	92
Mullineux Family Wines White	2009	91
Mullineux Family Wines White	2010	91
Muratie Ansela Van de Caab	2008	88
Mvemve Raats De Compostella	2007	93
Mvemve Raats De Compostella	2008	96
Nabygelegen Chenin Blanc	2009	87
Nabygelegen Lady Anna	2010	91
Nabygelegen Private Cellar Seventeen Twelve Wellington	2006	86
Nabygelegen Scaramanga	2008	87
Nederburg Bin D215 Sauvignon Blanc	2010	90
Nederburg Foundation Duet Shiraz / Pinotage	2009	85
Nederburg Ingenuity Red	2008	88
Nederburg Ingenuity White	2009	89
Nederburg Lyric	2010	84
Nederburg Manor House Chardonnay	2008	86
Nederburg Manor House Sauvignon Blanc	2010	84
Nederburg Private Bin D266 Semillon	2010	88
Nederburg Private Bin R109 Cabernet / Merlot	2003	88
Nederburg Private Bin R181 Merlot	2004	87



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Nederburg Private Bin R181 Merlot	2007	87
Nederburg Winemakers Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	83
Nederburg Winemakers Reserve Noble Late Harvest	2010	88
Nederburg Winemakers Reserve Rhine Riesling	2010	85
Nederburg Winemakers Reserve Sauvignon Blanc	2010	85
Nederburg Winemakers Reserve Shiraz	2009	83
Neethlingshof Estate Malbec	2010	89
Neethlingshof Estate The Caracal	2005	89
Neils Verburg (Aka Luddite) Shiraz	2006	90
Neils Verburg (Aka Luddite) Shiraz	2007	91
Newton Johnson Chardonnay	2009	90
Newton Johnson Pinot Noir Hemel en Aarde Valley	2009	93
Oak Valley Wines Chardonnay	2010	89
Oak Valley Wines Pinot Noir	2009	88
Oak Valley Wines Sauvignon Blanc	2010	88
Oak Valley Wines Semillon / Sauvignon Blanc	2008	90
Oak Valley Wines The Blend	2006	86
Obikwa Cabernet Sauvignon	2010	85
Obikwa Chardonnay	2010	85
Obikwa Shiraz	2010	86
Oldenberg Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	87
Painted Wolf Madach Red	2008	86
Painted Wolf Merlot	2009	87
Painted Wolf Shiraz	2009	88
Painted Wolf The Den Chenin Blanc	2010	88
Paul Cluver Chardonnay	2009	92
Paul Cluver Close Encounter Riesling	2010	87
Paul Cluver Gewurztraminer	2010	87
Paul Cluver Pinot Noir	2009	87
Paul Cluver Riesling	2010	86
Paul Cluver Sauvignon Blanc	2010	89
Paul Cluver Seven Flags Pinot Noir	2008	88
Paul Cluver Weisser Riesling Noble Late Harvest	2010	90
Plaisir de Merle Merlot	2008	86
Plaisir de Merle Shiraz	2008	86
Porcupine Ridge Syrah	2010	88
Quando Sauvignon Blanc	2010	90
Quoin Rock Cape Agulhas Sauvignon Blanc	2009	91
Quoin Rock Oculus	2007	93
Quoin Rock Shiraz Stellenbosch	2006	88
Quoin Rock The Mendi	2006	89
Raats Cabernet Franc	2009	92
Raats Chenin Blanc	2009	90



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Raats Chenin Blanc Original	2010	88
Remhoogte Estate Bonne Nouvelle	2002	87
Remhoogte Estate Bonne Nouvelle	2003	88
Remhoogte Estate Bonne Nouvelle	2004	89
Remhoogte Estate Bonne Nouvelle	2005	90
Remhoogte Estate Bonne Nouvelle	2006	90
Remhoogte Estate Bonne Nouvelle	2007	91
Reyneke Capstone	2009	94
Reyneke Chenin Blanc	2010	93
Reyneke Pinotage	2010	90
Reyneke Reserve Red	2008	94
Reyneke Reserve White	2009	93
Reyneke Sauvignon Blanc	2010	90
Rickety Bridge Shiraz	2008	85
Rickety Bridge The Bridge	2008	88
Rietvallei Classic Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	90
Rijk's Chenin Blanc Reserve	2007	87
Rijk's Estate Syrah	2007	91
Rijk's Private Cellar Chardonnay	2006	88
Rijk's Private Cellar Fascination	2008	86
Rijk's Private Cellar Pinotage	2006	87
Rijk's Private Cellar Reserve Chardonnay	2007	89
Rijk's Private Cellar Reserve Pinotage	2007	90
Rijk's Private Cellar Shiraz	2005	89
Rijk's Private Cellar Touch Of Oak Shiraz	2009	88
Rijk's The Master	2007	91
Rijk's Touch Of Oak Chenin Blanc	2009	86
Rust en Vrede Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	89
Rust en Vrede Merlot	2009	89
Rust en Vrede Shiraz	2008	87
Rust en Vrede Stellenbosch	2007	89
Rust en Vrede Stellenbosch	2008	91
Rustenberg Chardonnay	2010	88
Rustenberg Chardonnay Five Soldiers	2008	91
Rustenberg John X Merriman	2008	93
Rustenberg Peter Barlow	2007	93
Rustenberg Rm Nicholson	2009	89
Rustenberg Roussanne	2010	89
Rustenberg Sauvignon Blanc	2010	86
Rustenberg Schoongezicht White	2010	89
Rustenberg Straw Wine	2009	88
Rustenberg Syrah	2008	91
Rustenberg Unwooded Chardonnay	2010	86



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Sadie Family Columella	2008	92
Sadie Family Columella	2009	94
Sadie Family Palladius	2009	94
Sadie Family Sequillo Swartland	2009	93
Saronsberg Cellar Nick & Forti's Epicentre Red	2007	86
Saronsberg Cellar Provenance Rooi	2009	89
Saronsberg Cellar Seismic	2007	92
Saxenburg Guinea Fowl Merlot / Cabernet Sauvignon / Shiraz	2009	86
Saxenburg Merlot Private Collection	2008	85
Saxenburg Private Collection Cabernet Sauvignon	2007	87
Saxenburg Private Collection Chardonnay	2008	89
Saxenburg Private Collection Sauvignon Blanc	2010	89
Saxenburg Private Collection Shiraz	2006	86
Saxenburg Shiraz Select	2005	89
Scali Syrah	2006	89
Sequillo Cellars White Blend	2010	92
Shannon Vineyards Mount Bullet Merlot	2008	89
Shannon Vineyards Sanctuary Peak	2010	85
Sijnn Red Blend	2008	89
Sijnn White Blend	2009	88
Sijnn White Blend	2010	90
Simonsig Chardonnay	2009	92
Simonsig Chenin Avec Chene	2009	93
Simonsig Cuvee Royale Blanc de Blancs	2005	89
Simonsig Frans Malan Reserve	2007	87
Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel Brut	2009	87
Simonsig Merindol Syrah	2007	90
Simonsig Mr Borio's Shiraz	2009	87
Simonsig The Smv	2009	87
Simonsig Tiara	2008	89
Southern Right Pinotage Hemel en Aarde Valley	2009	90
Southern Right Sauvignon Blanc	2010	86
Spice Route Chakalaka	2009	90
Spice Route Malabar	2006	89
Spice Route Mourvedre	2008	87
Spice Route Pinotage	2008	87
Spice Route Sauvignon Blanc	2010	88
Spice Route Shiraz	2008	87
Spice Route Viognier	2009	88
Spier Chardonnay	2010	86
Spier Chenin Blanc	2010	86
Spier Creative Block 2 Sauvignon Blanc / Semillon	2010	89
Spier Creative Block 3	2008	87



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Spier Creative Block 5	2008	90
Spier Frans K Smit	2006	92
Spier Naledi Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	86
Spier Pinotage	2010	88
Spier Private Collection Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	88
Spier Private Collection Chenin Blanc	2009	87
Spier Private Collection Pinotage	2008	87
Spier Private Collection Sauvignon Blanc	2010	89
Spier Savanha Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	84
Spier Senja Merlot	2008	88
Spier Vintage Selection Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	87
Spier Vintage Selection Pinotage	2008	89
Spier Vintage Selection Sauvignon Blanc	2010	87
Spier Vintage Selection Shiraz	2008	87
Springfield Estate Life From Stone Sauvignon Blanc	2010	89
Steenberg Magna Carta	2009	88
Steenberg Sauvignon Blanc Reserve	2010	85
Steenberg Semillon	2010	87
Stellenzicht Semillon Reserve	2008	89
Sterhuis Chardonnay	2009	92
Strandveld Wines First Sighting Sauvignon Blanc	2008	89
Strandveld Wines First Sighting Sauvignon Blanc	2010	91
Strawberry Fields Cabernet / Shiraz	2009	88
Sutherland Cabernet Sauvignon / Petit Verdot	2008	87
Sutherland Chardonnay	2009	85
Sutherland Rhine Riesling	2009	87
Sutherland Sauvignon Blanc	2010	87
Sutherland Syrah	2008	90
Sutherland Viognier / Roussanne	2009	89
Testalonga El Bandito Chenin Blanc	2009	90
Testalonga El Bandito Cortez	2009	90
The Foundry Grenache Blanc	2010	93
The Foundry Roussanne	2010	88
The Foundry Syrah	2007	91
The Winery Of Good Hope Vinum Chenin Blanc	2010	91
Thelema Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	91
Thelema Chardonnay	2009	90
Thelema Merlot	2008	86
Thelema Mountain Red	2008	86
Thelema Rabelais	2007	93
Thelema Reserve Merlot Stellenbosch	2008	85
Thelema Riesling	2009	86
Thelema Sauvignon Blanc	2010	89



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Thelema Shiraz	2007	88
Thelema The Mint Cabernet Stellenbosch	2008	92
Tierhoek Chenin Blanc	2009	91
Tierhoek Sauvignon Blanc	2009	87
Tierhoek Straw Wine	2006	93
Tobias Red Blend	2010	91
Tokara Cabernet Sauvignon	2001	93
Tokara Chardonnay	2010	90
Tokara Director's Reserve Red	2007	94
Tokara Director's Reserve White	2009	92
Tokara Reserve Collection Elgin Sauvignon Blanc	2010	91
Tokara Reserve Collection Sauvignon Blanc Noble Late Harvest	2009	89
Tokara Reserve Collection Stellenbosch Chardonnay	2009	94
Tokara Reserve Collection Walker Bay Chardonnay	2009	90
Tokara Reserve Collection Walker Bay Sauvignon Blanc	2010	87
Tokara Shiraz	2009	90
Tokara Zondernaam Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	89
Tokara Zondernaam Sauvignon Blanc	2010	85
Tukulu Chenin Blanc	2010	87
Tukulu Shiraz	2007	85
Two Oceans Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	85
Two Oceans Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot	2010	85
Two Oceans Merlot	2010	85
Two Oceans Shiraz	2010	85
Uitkyk Carolonet Cabernet Sauvignon	2007	87
Uva Mira Vineyard Red Blend	2006	88
Uva Mira Vineyard Single Vineyard Chardonnay	2009	94
Vergelegen Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot	2008	90
Vergelegen Chardonnay	2010	87
Vergelegen Chardonnay Reserve	2009	89
Vergelegen Flagship Red	2004	91
Vergelegen Flagship White	2009	89
Vergelegen Merlot Reserve	2007	88
Vergelegen Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon	2006	90
Vergelegen Reserve Sauvignon Blanc	2010	87
Vergelegen Sauvignon Blanc	2010	85
Vergelegen Shiraz	2007	89
Vergelegen V	2005	90
Vergelegen V	2006	93
Vilafonte Series C	2006	93
Vilafonte Series C	2007	91
Vilafonte Series C	2008	93
Vilafonte Series M	2007	90



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Vonderling Wines Baldrick Shiraz	2009	86
Vonderling Wines Barbiana	2008	89
Vonderling Wines Cabernet / Merlot	2007	86
Vonderling Wines Chardonnay	2008	86
Vonderling Wines Erica Shiraz	2007	86
Vonderling Wines Petit Blanc	2010	87
Vonderling Wines Sauvignon Blanc	2010	90
Vonderling Wines Sweet Carolyn	2006	87
Warwick Estate Cabernet Franc	2008	87
Warwick Estate Estate Chardonnay	2009	89
Warwick Estate First Lady Cabernet Sauvignon	2009	88
Warwick Estate Pinotage Old Bush Vines	2009	87
Warwick Estate Sauvignon Blanc Professor Black	2009	87
Warwick Estate Sauvignon Blanc Professor Black	2010	88
Warwick Estate Three Cape Ladies	2008	88
Warwick Estate Trilogy	2007	90
Warwick Estate Trilogy	2008	90
Waterford Estate The Jem	2005	86
Waterkloof Wines Circle Of Life Red	2009	85
Waterkloof Wines Circle Of Life White	2010	88
Webersburg Cabernet Sauvignon	2006	90
Wolftrap Red	2010	88
Wolftrap White	2010	87
Zonnebloem Cabernet Sauvignon	2008	85
Zonnebloem Chardonnay	2010	87
Zonnebloem Pinotage	2009	85
Zonnebloem Sauvignon Blanc	2010	86
Zonnebloem Shiraz	2009	87

Pour Without Prejudice: South Africa

“So, what do you think of South Africa?” a winemaker enquires. Having spent a fortnight visiting most of its wine regions and tasting countless wines, it is not the first time that I have been asked this question. I pause for a moment, thinking of an appropriate word that encapsulates my feelings. “Visceral,” I reply. “South Africa is visceral.”

Though I only visited the Western Cape, I returned with the impression of a compelling country of extremes and contradictions. Gentle hills lie in the shadows of sky-scraping mountains that tumble into oceans, whilst no-go townships of poverty lap against luxurious mansions patrolled by teams of security guards. Aesthetically, the Western Cape is an idyllic landscape that is counterbalanced by a palpable “edginess” in the atmosphere. You never know exactly what lies round the corner and that is precisely what makes this country intoxicating. This is a dynamic country coalescing after the tumultuous years of Apartheid, a country reborn and figuring out in which direction it should head. And in the middle of this maelstrom is a wine industry asking itself the same questions, in particular, where South African wine stands on the global stage in 2011?



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The aim of this report is to suggest where South Africa is going right (and trust me, it is going right in far more places than I anticipated) and where it is going wrong. I hope to convince both the uninitiated and the sceptics of the heights that their greatest wines are achieving and the potential for the future. Perhaps most importantly in these straightened times, I hope you will be convinced that a vast number of South African wines offer exceptional quality for the price.

For a background to South Africa's wine industry in terms of its structure and its "Wines of Origin" structure I would direct you to the chapter that I authored for the 7th Wine Buyers Guide or the information-packed Wines of South Africa website. One point I *would* like to highlight is that South Africa is in reality, an Old World wine producing country. Winemaking has been part of South Africa since *Jan van Riebeeck* ordered grapes to be pressed in 1659, and during the 18th century the wines of Constantia were coveted around the world, when much of Bordeaux was marshland. Unlike New Zealand, where there was negligible viticulture prior to the 1980's apart from fortified wine, South Africa has always fostered a wine industry that has endured good times and bad. However, it is only really since the dismantling of Apartheid that their wines have been invited onto the global stage and subsequently made up for years in the wilderness. Between 1996 and 2009 exports nearly quadrupled and in 2009, around 49% of production was exported. Yet their wines have not quite achieved the esteem as other New World countries, as evinced by friends' sarcastic "condolences" when I told them I was covering South Africa. That stigma prevails. But if they continue to produce the quality of wine that is on offer, then it should be only a matter of time before they gain a wider, appreciative audience.

Viticulture

Let me start by commenting upon South Africa's vineyards. The latest figures from "Wines of South Africa" state that there are 604 wine producers whose vineyards occupy 101,259-hectares, a figure that has remained constant for around five years. Of South Africa's total vine plantings, 56.2% is devoted to white varieties and 43.8% red. On the negative side, producers have historically tended to plant unsuitable clones and inappropriate varieties vis-à-vis soil type, and many winemakers that I spoke to attributed this to the rush towards winemaking and especially red varieties after 1994. Under-ripeness is a perverse problem: the summer burst of heat sending sugar levels rocketing and necessitating early picking before physiological ripeness, hence one cause of the "sweet-green" flavours that have tarnished the image of its wines and unfairly painted all South African winemakers with the same brush.

We must broach the subject of endemic leaf-roll virus. Its effects were evident as I drove past vineyards painted dull, reddish-brown, when there ought to have been bright autumnal hues. Its effects are particularly felt during difficult growing seasons when it can prevent grapes from achieving full maturity, ostensibly accentuating the lows of a bad vintage. Much like phylloxera, it afflicts even the most prestigious vineyards and likewise the only way to tackle this is by drastic whole-scale replanting and intense chemical treatment of the soils, a measure financially unfeasible or morally untenable to many growers.

Now, consider the positives. Fortunately, many vineyard managers and winemakers are reorganizing their vineyards to address these issues. In particular, there is now more research into soil profiles and mapping them to more suitable grape varieties. To counter the summer heat, winemakers are eking out high altitude, cooler mesoclimates that extend the growing season and engender greater complexity. With this comes greater focus upon expressing *terroir*, whether it is the weathered shale of Swartland or the granitic foothills of Simonsberg Mountains. This is a more mature approach than "buffing up" wines in the winery that seemed prevalent during the 1990's. South Africa is rich with interesting and often untapped *terroirs*. Hopefully the process of exploiting their potential is only just beginning.

Leaf-roll virus is a complex issue. The prevailing thought appears to have been: "*We just have to live with it.*" One or two viticulturalists actually welcomed leaf-roll as effectively countervailing over-ripeness, a useful weapon to mitigate against global warming. Ignoring the issue is not going to make it go away and whilst leaf-roll does not preclude a producer from creating excellent wines



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every vintage, it detracts from the perception of South Africa as a world-class wine-producing country. But at least producers have moved on from a state of denial. My feeling is that it would need a co-ordinated, industry-supported program to really get on top of the problem, but I cannot see that happening in the immediate future.

Conversing with winemakers, it is clear that much has been learnt empirically over the last decade in terms of vineyard husbandry, and over the last couple of years they have begun adapting vineyards accordingly. It is the “little feet in the vineyard” philosophy that is being embraced, spending time amongst the vines and making pre-emptive moves to maintain healthy vines rather than treating any problems afterwards. As a consequence, wines are becoming cleaner and demonstrate more complexity than the vintages of yore, whilst those niggling “green” notes are less prevalent. Essentially, South African wine would now seem to contain more “thought” under its cork.

Grape Varieties

In terms of grape varieties, at present South Africa is stronger in terms of its white grape varieties rather than reds, though the latter are improving rapidly. Whilst many of the cheaper Sauvignon Blanc varietals once had nasty methoxy-pyrazine characters (a trait some consumers actively seek, which might have prompted the damaging flavouring scandal a few years back) I found that recent vintages err towards freshness and vigour, with attractive subtle tropical notes akin to Marlborough Sauvignon. There are some extraordinary complex expressions of the variety from the likes of Cape Point and Cederberg Private Cellar that eke out the intellectual side of Sauvignon Blanc. What appears to work supremely well are the Sauvignon/Semillon blends, the latter lending another layer of complexity to the often one-dimensional Sauvignon.

Many tout Chenin Blanc, which currently represents 18% of total plantings, as South Africa's trump card. Although some wines flirted with blandness, most likely through over-cropping, a top-class Chenin Blanc can be a magical experience, surfeit with complexity, nuance and personality. The great news is that you do not have to pay through the nose for some of the best wines and in fact several outstanding Chenin Blanc wines can be found between \$15.00 and \$20.00, sometimes even less.

Then there is Chardonnay, which currently represents 8% of total plantings. Let me be facetious and remind South Africa winemakers that a) Chardonnay is comparatively easy to cultivate b) a great Chardonnay tastes delicious and therefore c) it is comparatively easy to sell. Ignore all this “Anything But Chardonnay” clamour! A blind tasting of nearly 100 South African Chardonnay proved that this is South Africa's most consistent white grape variety and like Chenin Blanc, its greatest exponents produce world-class wines, I would suggest more Burgundy in style than Napa Valley. The biggest change here is patently less reliance upon new oak. The big, buttery, creamy styles of a decade ago are being replaced by crisp, *terroir*-driven, mineral-rich Chardonnays that are both more intellectual and delicious. Bring it on!

With respect to red grape varieties my main overall criticism is a lack of crispness and definition on the finish. There is a tendency to load the fruit onto the front palate, yet the finishes are too frequently smudged, alcoholic or are carried by excessive residual sugar. These wines soon begin to pall, the second glass less inviting than the first and the result is twofold: they are difficult to match with cuisine and it becomes a chore to finish the bottle (as attested on numerous occasions when I tested bottles over longer periods at home.) Fortunately this generic style was more prevalent during the 1990's and the red wines are beginning to show intensity rather than power, contain far more freshness and that elusive sense of tension that compels you to re-fill that glass.

Cabernet Sauvignon is the most widely planted red variety at 12% of total plantings. However, the Bordeaux blends tend to be inconsistent at the lower end with far too many wines reliant on oak that is often clumsily handled or blatantly covering up for sub-standard fruit. However, there were examples that showed you could find wonderful Cabernet-based blends for as little as ten dollars. The Merlot varietals tend to be average and in my opinion, the climate is not suited for this sensitive grape variety that can easily tip over into over-ripeness. Similarly, Pinot Noir is a fickle



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grape variety that should be the sole reserve of those with a particularly cool climate, for example, up in the cooler Hemel-en-Aarde valley. There, the likes of Hamilton Russell and Newton Johnson can produce outstanding Pinot Noir that give many Burgundy growers a run for their money. Pinot Noir demands obsessive winemakers who are prepared to commit to the capricious varietal, who are prepared to take risks. I think the new generation of winemakers who have spent more time overseas really get to grips with the variety and understand what makes a great Pinot Noir. The greatest potential in my opinion, comes from the Rhône based blends, from Shiraz, Grenache and to a lesser extent, Mourvèdre. One can see the climactic parallels between the Rhône Valley and areas of South Africa such as Swartland. The top wines from the likes of Eben Sadie, Adi Badenhorst, Alex Starey and Mark Kent, to name but a few, are magnificent. There has been a tendency to pursue the more muscular style of Shiraz, but speaking to a number of winemakers, many expressed their intention to “dial down” the levels of alcohol and experiment with larger vessels rather than small French *barriques* to create more sophisticated, elegant styles of wine. That is one of South Africa’s most exciting prospects. My only caveat is that Rhône blends can be difficult to sell to markets when the Rhône itself has so much to offer (notwithstanding Australia and California.)

Then there is Pinotage, South Africa’s pride and joy that covers 7% of total plantings. To many cognoscenti it is a laughing stock, a variety unable to make good quality, long-lasting wine. I must admit that my views of Pinotage completely changed during my tastings, for although there remains a trough of wretched wines, there is no doubt that **Pinotage can make extremely competent wine when placed in the right hands**. I would not go far as to say that I can envisage a Pinotage that would be considered “profound”¼but you never know. It often seems to leave one foot in its primary stage of evolution and does not repay cellaring as much as other varieties. Certainly winemakers seem to have got a better handle of Pinotage, especially in terms of when to pick. All they need to do now is make the world think differently, which is easier said than done. What they have to do is convince people to treat Pinotage seriously.

Moving into the winery, I will broach the subject of blending first. Some of the blending decisions are woefully misguided with an occasional tendency to assimilate a diverse array of grape varieties that include everything but the kitchen sink. The varieties tend to cancel each other out; the wine and the consumer left confused as to what they are actually drinking. And to be honest, I am not completely bought by South Africa’s “Cape Blends” i.e. adding Pinotage to other red grape varieties, because it often does not feel “in synch” with the other varieties, perhaps in terms of its evolution. I found that it sometimes detracted from a potential great Bordeaux or Rhône blend or indeed, a great monovarietal Pinotage.

My main criticism is one that I have already touched upon: the excessive use of oak. Charred woody aromas and flavours have prevailed, denuding wines of freshness and obliterating any sense of terroir. Entry-level wines were often found to have obvious wood chip flavours from the use of cheap wooden staves and “dirtiness” imparted by sub-standard, unclean barrels. Flagship blends tend to be matured in a high level of new oak by rote, as if consumers would rebuke a top cuvée that has not been dunked in French *barriques* for 24 or 36-months. Therefore one or two producers may be surprised to read that I found their prudently made mid-range



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wines more appealing than their ostentatious super-cuvée. Fortunately it is clear that winemakers are responding, not by drastically reducing the level of new oak, but by pausing to consider the oak regime in relation to the wine from one year to the next.

Selling South Africa

In terms of banging the drum, the marketing body “Wines of South Africa” do the best they can with an extremely limited budget. Winemakers need to be proactive. Everyone is talking about Swartland not just because of the wines (though that is fundamental) but because its “movers and shakers” are boarding planes and generating interest themselves. Other regions should take their lead and convince consumers who intend to spend money on a quality New World wine, either at a retailer or a restaurant, exactly *why* they should choose South Africa? Relying solely upon the quality of the wine is not enough in a market when so many competitors are vying for attention.

The Future

South Africa stands at a crossroads. Whilst the wines have improved in recent years, at the same time I heard accounts of wineries finding it difficult to maintain cash flow. Overseas markets continue to be difficult to penetrate and there is a domestic population, a majority of whom have no culture or enthusiasm for wine. Per-capita consumption of wine in South Africa actually fell by 4.8% in 2009. The so-called “Cappuccino” blends (a hybrid of wine and coffee) are designed to appeal to those making their first tentative steps into wine. I tasted a few during this report but few were worthy of recommendation. The question is whether they are an effective stepping-stone towards wider acceptance of wine or a genre that blemishes the global perception of South Africa as a top-quality wine-producing country?

In terms of the market in the United States, it was patently obvious that whilst South Africa has made significant in-roads in the UK, on the other side of the Atlantic, the wines can be frustratingly difficult to sell. To put that into figures, in 2009 the UK imported just over 95 million bottles of South African wine but in the US that figure is just 8.5 million. Part of that reason can be put down to the stigma against its wines and the only way to counter that is to coerce importers, sommeliers and consumers to taste for themselves. The second reason is that the quality at the bottom end is at times, dreadful, and dissuades consumers from nurturing a long-term interest in South African wine. It is imperative for wines around the ten-dollar mark to reach a certain quality; otherwise it is simply a disincentive for consumers to trade up.

However, I remain cautiously optimistic that South Africa *is* going to progress. It is not going to be easy and competition is tough. But most pleasing was to meet the younger generation of winemakers who have patently caught the wine bug and are not hidebound by the practices of the previous generation. They are the ones seeking more marginal *terroirs* and pockets of old vines, experimenting with grape varieties, keeping it simple but creating wines full of personality and full of stories that attract consumers. That is the key for the future and in a sense, this new generation is already beginning to exit the slipstream. The stalwarts of the South African wine industry will have to raise their game if not now, then later. Give it another decade and I bet you that South African’s “icons” will be different from those of today. The 600+ tasting notes are from a number of sources. Many were tasted from samples poured blind at my home (which incidentally, made me rue South Africa’s aversion to alternative closures such as screwcap, even for some basic entry-level whites.) In addition, I undertook two private tastings at the offices of “Wines of South Africa.” It was crucial that I spent time in the country itself; therefore I tagged on several days’ tasting after serving as International Judge at the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show. This competition was a perfect way to dive headfirst into current South African wine scene and obtain a snapshot of the general quality, before venturing further. Subsequent visits and conversations with winemakers offered an invaluable insight into South Africa winemaking. Trying to cover a whole country was futile given the limitations of my time, so I have focused on wines currently distributed in the USA from entry-level brands to its icons. I have also listed wines that are not currently imported to the USA but represent outstanding value or those where I feel quality ought to be recognized. In particular, I sought out some of the younger, independent winemakers who are making some of the most exciting wines that push the envelope



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such as Peter-Allan Finlayson (Crystallum), Craig Hawkins (Lammershoek and his own label, Testalonga) and Brian MacRoberts (Sadie Family and his own label, Tobias) to name but three. I am aware that this is just the start. I am aware that there are many producers whose wines are missing. But an initial report was long overdue and offers something to build upon in this constantly changing country. For the consumer, there is a gamut of rich pickings to be found. Just pour without prejudice.

—Neal Martin

The 50 Year Old Pinotage (and Other Stories) 1974	ALTO	ALTO ROUGE	78
1985	BACKSBERG	CHARDONNAY	90
1967	CHATEAU LIBERTAS	PROPRIETARY RED	88
1982	CHATEAU LIBERTAS	PROPRIETARY RED	91
1989	FLEUR DU CAP	BLANC FUME	87
1966	GEORGE SPIES (PRIVATE BOTTLING)	GS CABERNET SAUVIGNON	?
c1800	JAUBERT	MUSCAT	99
1986	KLEIN	D'ALEXANDRIE SAUVIGNON	?
1987	CONSTANTIA KLEIN	BLANC SAUVIGNON	90
1987	CONSTANTIA KLEIN	BLANC RHINE RIESLING	90
1974	KWV	PINOTAGE	88
1933	KWV	MUSCADELLE	90
1963	LANZERAC	CABERNET SAUVIGNON	78
1961	LANZERAC	PINOTAGE	92
1976	NEDERBERG	CABERNET SAUVIGNON	76
1983	OUDE NEKTAR	CABERNET SAUVIGNON	65?
1986	OVERGAAUW	CHARDONNAY	86
1971	RUSTENBERG	CABERNET SAUVIGNON	86
1986	WARWICK ESTATE	TRILOGY	87
1984	ZONNEBLOEM	CHARDONNAY	90
1959	ZONNEBLOEM	CABERNET SAUVIGNON	96

This is a little “extra” to my South Africa report. I could have integrated the notes into the main report, but they deserve a spotlight for the simple reason that tasting notes for old South African wine are rarely seen. I had literally been in the country for an hour when I was invited to taste some twenty bottles that admittedly piqued my interest rather than set my pulse racing. This was an annual tasting organized by Michael Fridjhon. Bottles were mostly of sound or impeccable provenance, many originating from the scant reserves of the estates themselves, often in the presence of the original winemaker. They were all served blind in professional conditions.

I want to emphasize the fact that these are impressions of bottles. For example, the GS Cabernet Sauvignon 1966 is one of South Africa’s most fabled wines, feted as “South Africa’s Greatest Wine.” Unfortunately this particular example was rather decrepit, even though other tasters were more positive in their sentiments.



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This small but memorable tasting forced me to completely re-think my attitude towards South African wine. If there was one bottle that upended all my preconceptions, it was the Pinotage 1961 from Lanzerac Wines. To put it into context, I had tasted two or three Claret's from the same haloed vintage just a month prior to this tasting and this Pinotage, a grape mocked and disparaged by many, was equal to those wines. The other bottle that deservedly won universal praise was the astounding Cabernet Sauvignon 1959 from Zonnebloem¼from a half-bottle no less! It was simply magnificent, unsullied by age, vibrant, jam-packed full of fruit, complex and as compelling as many Clarets from the same vintage.

This tasting went some way to disprove the theory that South African wines cannot age. Speaking to seasoned professionals, there is a forgotten golden era during the 1940's, 50's and 60's when South Africa had a knack of producing outstanding wines. But like elsewhere, winemakers succumbed to mechanization, over-cropping and excessive chemical use during the 1980's and early 1990's and quality declined (although having said that, a couple of wines from that era were very commendable!) Those misguided practices have being addressed in recent years and proving this, I remarked how recent vintages and new releases are generally superior to their counterparts from the mid-1990's.

Finally, I have added one *rara avis*, ceremoniously opened at the Vinexpo trade fair in Bordeaux. The 250ml bottle of Muscat d'Alexandrie from Jaubert is dated from around the turn of the 19th century, possibly earlier. Analysis has shown that the wine had no botrytis and no fortification, whilst it contains 411gm/L residual sugar and 8.3gms/L tartaric acid. Just nine-litres are occasionally released each year and so given its rarity, I simply want to attest these extraordinary, historic wines first-hand, rather than vicariously. Remember that at this time, Château d'Yquem was relatively unknown and sold for less than South African wines such as these. It was an ethereal vinous experience with unbelievable freshness and vitality. I have tasted Tokaji of a similar age and they were heavier and of course, more oxidative in style. What this Muscat d'Alexandrie displayed was a precision and tension that seemed undiminished by two centuries of ageing (give or take a little topping up.) Quite simply, it was an astounding wine that does not recognize the end of time.



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