



K A P W E I N E

The Home of South African Wines

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Wine Spectator: eye opening value from South Africa

James Molesworth vom renommierten US Weinmagazin Wine Spectator www.winespectator.com meint Südafrika bietet "augenöffnende Preis-Leistung". Wir können ihm da nur Recht geben. Bei den meisten Südafrikanischen Weinen bezahlen Sie nicht für Image und Marketinggeschichten, sondern für die Qualität in der Flasche! Ist es nicht genau das was die meisten Konsumenten wirklich wollen? Ehrliche Weine mit tollem Preis-Genussverhältnis quer durch alle Rebsorten. Tja dann heisst es auf nach Südafrika oder an eine unserer nächsten Degustationen, wo Sie sich gleich selbst von dieser Aussage überzeugen lassen können.

12 Diverse Wines from South Africa

New reviews of Sauvignon Blanc, Pinotage and other affordable bottlings from South Africa

[James Molesworth](#)

Posted: March 8, 2013

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Tasting

Wine Spectator

www.winespectator.com

Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.

South African wines continue to deliver eye-opening value here in the U.S. market as the nation's currency, the rand, slides against the dollar. This selection of very good to outstanding wines checks in at around \$20 a bottle.

Spice Route and Fairview are both owned by Charles Back, perhaps best known for creating the Goats do Roam label. Fairview is his long-established family winery in Paarl, and Spice Route is his frontier outpost in the Swartland.

Sauvignon Blanc is the lead player in this report. The grape has been planted widely in recent years, mostly in cooler, coastal spots that foster fresh, bracing citrus and kiwifruit-flavored profiles. Head inland



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to Stellenbosch, though, as the Morgenhof bottle does, and the grape takes on added richness and ripeness, with more peach and plantain notes.

Pinotage remains the Cape's signature varietal, although it often struggles with consistency. But the Spice Route bottling shows it can deliver fleshy fruit and solid grip without being overly rustic.

South Africa's diversity is its strength, and new experimentation with Viognier and other Rhône varietals, such as those in the Goats do Roam white blend, continue to add to the country's vinous offerings.

SPICE ROUTE Pinotage Swartland 2010 Score: 90 | \$23

This has a dark core of steeped plum, anise and blackberry fruit, infused with singed wood spice and backed by a flash of roasted apple wood that lends some structure to the finish. Drink now through 2014. 3,000 cases made. —*J.M.*

MORGENHOF Sauvignon Blanc Simonsberg-Stellenbosch 2011 Score: 89 | \$19

Bold, offering salted butter, creamed white peach, honeysuckle and plantain notes framed by a lightly toasted brioche edge. Flattering, with enough zip for balance. Drink now. 2,500 cases made. —*J.M.*

PAINTED WOLF Pinotage Swartland Guillermo 2010 Score: 89 | \$19

Dark and juicy, with blackberry cobbler, steeped blueberry and roasted fig notes lined with hints of licorice and singed apple wood. A ripe, bold style, bolstered by solid structure. Drink now through 2014. 112 cases imported. —*J.M.*

SPICE ROUTE Sauvignon Blanc Darling 2012 Score: 89 | \$17

A bracing version, with chive, lime and kiwifruit pulp notes matched to a steely edge through the finish. For fans of the taut style. Drink now. 2,000 cases made. —*J.M.*

FAIRVIEW Sauvignon Blanc Darling 2012 Score: 88 | \$13

Features a mix of herb and sea salt notes, with full white peach and melon rind hints, all backed by a flicker of straw on the finish. Drink now. 14,000 cases made. —*J.M.*

FAIRVIEW Viognier Paarl 2011 Score: 88 | \$20

Plump and forward, with white peach, melon and anise notes, complemented by a rounded, bitter almond-tinged finish. Drink now. 2,000 cases made. —*J.M.*

JARDIN Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch 2012 Score: 88 | \$15

Shows good cut from the start, with chive, mâche, white asparagus and sweet pea notes giving way to a tangy lime edge on the finish. Solid. Drink now. 500 cases imported. —*J.M.*

WARWICK Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch Professor Black 2011 Score: 88 | \$21

This sports a ripe, friendly edge, with kiwifruit, lime and green apple notes all working together against a backdrop of plantain on the juicy finish. A tasty, crowd-pleasing style. Drink now. 2,500 cases imported. —*J.M.*

FAIRVIEW Pinotage Coastal Region 2011 Score: 87 | \$17

A fresh, relatively unadorned style, with just a whiff of toast that quickly gives way to a pure core of cherry, damson plum and raspberry fruit. Displays a briary edge on the finish. Drink now. 7,500 cases made. —*J.M.*

GOATS DO ROAM WINE COMPANY Goats do Roam White Western Cape 2011 Score: 87 | \$10

Displays good fennel, peach and nectarine notes, with a flash of green almond to keep the finish lively. Viognier, Grenache Blanc and Roussanne. Drink now. 10,000 cases made. —*J.M.*

RIEBEEK CELLARS Sauvignon Blanc Swartland 2012 Score: 87 | \$10

Shows energy, with lemon zest, floral and white peach notes lingering through the light-bodied but persistent, mâche-tinged finish. Drink now. 5,000 cases imported. —*J.M.*

EXCELSIOR Sauvignon Blanc Robertson 2012 Score: 86 | \$10

Juicy and forward, with good lime and kiwifruit notes, kept honest and fresh by a flash of chive on the finish. Drink now. 2,500 cases imported. —*J.M.*



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SOUTH AFRICA

White

Boekenhoutskloof

Sémillon Franschoek 2010

92 points | \$39 | 62 cases imported | White

Gorgeous, offering clementine, tangerine and singed Brazil nut notes allied to a creamy frame. The long finish lets orange blossom, white ginger and warm brioche hints fill in. Should develop breadth and length in the cellar. Best from 2014 through 2019.—*J.M.*

Bizoe

Henriëtte Western Cape 2011

91 points | \$33 | 60 cases imported | White

Creamy and alluring, with nectarine and tangerine notes giving way to peach, orange, flan, toasted almond, brioche and ginger notes. Stays creamy and well-defined through the finish. Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now through 2014.—*J.M.*

Buitenverwachting

Sauvignon Blanc Constantia Bayten 2012

90 points | \$15 | 1,200 cases imported | White

Ripe but well-focused, with straw, white peach, kiwifruit pulp and pink grapefruit notes all wound together and extending through the well-defined finish. Very solid, this should mellow with modest cellaring. Drink now through 2015.—*J.M.*

Neil Ellis

Sauvignon Blanc Groenekloof 2011

90 points | \$18 | 1,000 cases imported | White

This crackles with vivacious lemon zest, white peach and straw notes, which remain invigorating through the finish, framed by a melon rind note and flash of fennel. Drink now.—*J.M.*

Southern Right

Sauvignon Blanc Walker Bay 2011

90 points | \$19 | 1,750 cases imported | White

Displays ripeness and drive, with citrus oil, white peach and salted butter notes offset by bracing fleur de sel and thyme accents. The long, rapier finish pulls you back for another sip. Drink now.—*J.M.*



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