

Wine Spectator Value Wines April 2009 from South Africa



Auf dem Titelbild der April Ausgabe des renommierten US Weinmagazins Wine Spectator wurde die Syrah, Mourvèdre, Viognier Assemblage [WOLFRAP](#) von Boekenhoutskloof als Best Value Wein mit 88 Punkten zum Preis von Fr. 13.80 vorgestellt. .

SOUTH AFRICA

Distinctive Chenin Blanc and Syrah

South African wine country is nestled around Cape Town, at the southern tip of the African continent. Cooling currents from Antarctica produce a Mediterranean-like climate in which a variety of grapes thrive.

Chenin Blanc, sometimes called Steen, is a local favorite. Like versions from the grape's traditional home in France's Loire Valley, the best from here balance well-defined acidity with ripe peach, apple, honey and spice notes. Chardonnays also show racy acidity, with pure

fruit flavors that lean toward apple, pear and melon, with hints of fig and citrus fruits. A counterpoint to these more full-bodied whites is Sauvignon Blanc; most are light-bodied, citrus-focused and have plenty of mineral and salt accents.

Red wines also make a statement. Leading the way is Syrah (sometimes called Shiraz in the Aussie fashion). It's available both as single-variety bottlings and in blends with Cabernet, Grenache and Pinotage, producing wines that are ripe and fleshy, with juicy plum, berry, fig and spice notes. Cabernet Sauvignon is also widely made, typically displaying good grip and flavors of currant, coffee, berry and grilled herbs.

NEIL ELLIS Sauvignon Blanc Groenekloof 2008 Score: 90 / \$18

Since he founded his winery more than 20 years ago, Neil Ellis has sought out the best fruit sources for his wines. In 1996, he located Sauvignon Blanc vines on the 300-acre Contreberg Farm in Groene-kloof, a sub-zone of the Darling region. Planted at an altitude of over 1,200 feet and influenced by cooling breezes from the nearby Atlantic, these vines turn out fresh, racy Sauvignon Blancs, with floral, white peach and lime notes and an herb-tinged spine.

BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF The Wolftrap Western Cape 2007 Score: 88 / \$11

The Wolftrap is a fleshy blend of Syrah (60 percent), Mourvèdre (39 percent) and Viognier (1 percent). Winemaker Marc Kent is a devotee of Rhône wines, and the blend for The Wolftrap was selected and made with them in mind. For the 2007, the Syrah was co-fermented with the Viognier skins and the stems (the Viognier juice was fermented separately), with the goal of increasing the aromatics of the wine's plum, anise and violet notes.



RED

Score Price Wine

- 88 \$11 **BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF** The Wolftrap Western Cape 2007
- 88 \$13 **BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF** Syrah Coastal Region Porcupine Ridge 2007
- 88 \$15 **FAIRVIEW** Shiraz Paarl 2006
- 87 \$10 **POST HOUSE** Blueish Black Stellenbosch 2007
- 87 \$11 **NEDERBURG** Shiraz Western Cape The Winemaster's Reserve 2006
- 87 \$13 **KANONKOP** Kadette Stellenbosch 2007
- 86 \$10 **GRAHAM BECK** Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon Western Cape 2007
- 86 \$11 **MAN VINTNERS** Shiraz Coastal Region 2007
- 85 \$13 **BACKSBERG** Merlot Coastal Region 2007



WHITE

Score Price Wine

- 90 \$18 **NEIL ELLIS** Sauvignon Blanc Groenekloof 2008
- 90 \$19 **CAPAIA** Sauvignon Blanc Philadelphia Blue Grove Hill 2008
- 90 \$20 **RUSTENBERG** Chardonnay Stellenbosch 2007
- 89 \$15 **SPICE ROUTE** Sauvignon Blanc Darling 2008
- 88 \$14 **NEIL ELLIS** Sauvignon Blanc Western Cape Sincerely 2008
- 88 \$15 **KEN FORRESTER** Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch 2008
- 87 \$10 **MAN VINTNERS** Chenin Blanc Coastal Region 2008
- 87 \$11 **RUSTENBERG** Sauvignon Blanc Western Cape Brampton 2008
- 87 \$12 **BUITENVERWACHTING** Sauvignon Blanc Coastal Region Beyond 2008
- 87 \$12 **THE WINERY OF GOOD HOPE** Chenin Blanc Stellenbosch 2008
- 87 \$13 **BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF** Sauvignon Blanc Western Cape Porcupine Ridge 2007
- 87 \$15 **GRAHAM BECK** Sauvignon Blanc Coastal Region 2008
- 86 \$10 **GOATS DO ROAM WINE COMPANY** Goats do Roam White Coastal Region 2007
- 86 \$11 **RUSTENBERG** Sauvignon Blanc Western Cape Brampton 2007
- 85 \$11 **MAN VINTNERS** Sauvignon Blanc Coastal Region 2008
- 85 \$10 **SWARTLAND WINERY** Chardonnay Western Cape Sebeka 2007

