

James Molesworth's Recommended Wines From South Africa

More than 375 wines were reviewed for this report. A free alphabetical list is available at www.winespectator.com/053111. WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.

TOP WINES

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|--|-------|---------------|
| SADIE FAMILY Columella Swartland 2008 Offers stunning richness and purity, with blueberry, loganberry, raspberry and dark plum fruit flavors. Syrah and Mourvèdre. | 95 | \$NA |
| KLEIN CONSTANTIA Vin de Constance Constantia 2005 Rich, but racy and mouthwatering, with lovely precision. Shows pure orange peel, tangerine, persimmon and clementine flavors. | 94 | \$50 |
| BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF Syrah Coastal Region 2007 Rich, dark and alluring, with licorice snap, roasted mesquite, mulled plum, fig paste and spice notes. | 93 | \$47 |
| MR MVEMVE RAATS De Compostella Stellenbosch 2007 Densely packed, but well-defined, with notes of red licorice, plum, blackberry preserves and tobacco. Cabernet Franc blend. | 93 | \$60 |
| MULLINEUX Straw Wine Swartland 2009 An opulent dessert wine, with thick-textured flavors. Chenin Blanc. | 93 | \$27 |
| L'ORMARINS Cabernet Franc Coastal Region Anthonij Rupert 2006 Dense and muscular, with dark plum, fig and black currant character. | 93 | \$80 |
| RUST EN VREDE 1694 Stellenbosch 2007 This big wine delivers crushed black currant, braised fig and melted licorice snap notes. Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. | 93 | \$NA |
| STARK-CONDÉ Syrah Jonkershoek Valley Three Pines 2007 Inviting, with a dense core of plum, black currant and blackberry fruit. | 93 | \$35 |
| VILAFONTÉ Series C Paarl 2007 Rich and lush, but very driven, with lovely fruit flavors. The best vintage yet for this project. Cabernet Sauvignon blend. | 93 | \$40 |
| A.A. BADENHORST FAMILY Coastal Region White 2008 Broad and ripe, with peach, quince and melon. Chenin Blanc blend. | 92 | \$40 |
| BOUCHARD FINLAYSON Pinot Noir Walker Bay Galpin Peak 2009 Rich and ripe, but stylish, with gorgeous flavors all woven together. | 92 | \$40 |
| HAMILTON RUSSELL Chardonnay Hemel-en-Aarde Valley 2009 This bold white boasts grilled hazelnut, fig and pear <i>tartine</i> flavors. | 92 | \$32 |
| KANONKOP Paul Sauer Simonsberg-Stellenbosch 2006 Rich but racy, with tangy minerality coursing through the core of loganberry, plum and fig fruit flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon blend. | 92 | \$43 |
| MULDERBOSCH Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch Noble Late Harvest 2007 Richly sweet, with dried apricot, mango, orange peel and tangerine. | 92 | \$35 500ml |
| MULLINEUX Swartland White 2009 Ripe and unctuous, but well-defined, with riveting acidity driving through the melon, peach and apple flavors. Chenin Blanc blend. | 92 | \$32 |
| L'ORMARINS Cabernet Sauvignon Coastal Region Anthonij Rupert 2006 A dark, loamy style, boasting plum sauce and black currant fruit. | 92 | \$60 |
| L'ORMARINS Syrah Coastal Region Anthonij Rupert 2006 Rich and dark, with coffee, chocolate and roasted mesquite notes. | 92 | \$NA |
| RUST EN VREDE Stellenbosch 2007 Features tobacco, black currant and black olive notes out front, while a darker core waits in reserve. Cabernet Sauvignon blend. | 92 | \$40 |

TOP WINES (continued)

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|--|-------|-------|
| RUST EN VREDE Syrah Stellenbosch 2007 Powerful yet well-defined, with toast, espresso, fig and black licorice. | 92 | \$NA |
| SPICE ROUTE Malabar Swartland 2007 Fleshy and ripe, but restrained, boasting cocoa powder, fig sauce, mesquite, linzer torte and black tea notes. Syrah blend. | 92 | \$66 |
| STARK-CONDÉ Cabernet Sauvignon Jonkershoek Valley Three Pines 2007 Dark, ripe and polished, with plum, cassis and blackberry fruit. | 92 | \$42 |
| THELEMA Shiraz Stellenbosch 2007 Nicely rendered, with a powerful core of plum and currant fruit. | 92 | \$36 |
| VILAFONTÉ Series C Paarl 2006 Concentrated but well-integrated, with briar, blackberry, currant, black tea and cocoa notes. Cabernet Sauvignon blend. | 92 | \$40 |
| VILAFONTÉ Series M Paarl 2007 A dense red, showing layers of fig, plum sauce, hoisin sauce and melted licorice snap flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon blend. | 92 | \$25 |
| VINS D'ORRANCE Syrah Western Cape Cuvée Ameena 2008 Ripe and rich, but fresh, with raspberry and blackberry fruit. | 92 | \$40 |

TOP VALUES

| WINE | SCORE | PRICE |
|--|-------|-------|
| SOUTHERN RIGHT Sauvignon Blanc Walker Bay 2009 Precise, with nervy chive, thyme, lime, apple and fleur de sel notes. | 90 | \$19 |
| BEYERSKLOOF Synergy Cape Blend Stellenbosch 2007 Brawny, with plum, blueberry and currant fruit. Pinotage blend. | 89 | \$18 |
| DE WETSHOF Chardonnay Robertson Bon Vallon 2009 Ripe but focused, delivering creamy yellow apple and melon notes. | 89 | \$16 |
| NEIL ELLIS Sauvignon Blanc Western Cape Sincerely 2009 Lively and racy, with tangy chalk, lime and thyme notes. | 88 | \$14 |
| GLEN CARLOU Chardonnay Paarl 2009 Pear, fig and apple notes are lightly toasty and well-defined. | 88 | \$16 |
| TEDDY HALL Chenin Blanc Stellenbosch Summer Moments 2009 Ripe, yet racy and focused, with citrus, quince and pear notes. | 88 | \$11 |
| SIMONSIG Chenin Blanc Stellenbosch 2009 Shows candied citrus peel, tangy yellow apple and quince notes. | 88 | \$12 |
| WHALEHAVEN Pinot Noir Elgin 2008 Dark, but silky and fresh, with crushed cherry and plum fruit. | 88 | \$12 |
| GRAHAM BECK Shiraz Coastal Region 2005 Still youthful, though the additional aging has added dimensions. | 87 | \$15 |
| BOEKENHOUTSKLOOF The Wolftrap White Western Cape 2009 Exhibits melon, green almond and anise flavors. Viognier blend. | 87 | \$11 |
| FAIRVIEW Chenin Blanc Coastal Region La Capra 2009 Racy and fresh, with lime zest, quinine and white peach flavors. | 87 | \$10 |
| KANU Chenin Blanc Stellenbosch 2009 A bright, breezy style, with easygoing pear, apple and fig notes. | 87 | \$10 |
| WARWICK The First Lady Western Cape 2008 Solid, with herb and olive notes. Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. | 87 | \$16 |