

James Molesworth's Recommended Wines From South Africa

More than 475 wines were reviewed for this report. A free alphabetical list is available at www.winespectator.com/053112. WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
KLEIN CONSTANTIA Vin de Constance Constantia 2006 This is gorgeous from the start, with sweet but precise tangerine, nectarine and clementine fruit flavors. Long and pure.	95	\$50 500ml
4G Western Cape 2010 Very sleek and racy, with a strong mineral spine to the crushed plum, fig and boysenberry fruit. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	93	\$320
BUITENVERWACHTING Maximus Constantia 2009 Thoroughly intriguing, with brioche, tangerine and clementine notes backed by peach and heather. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon.	93	\$40
CAPE POINT VINEYARDS Isliedh Cape Point 2010 Jonagold apple and melon fruit mix deftly with bracing tarragon and gooseberry hints. Distinctive. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon.	93	\$65
DE TRAFFORD Shiraz Stellenbosch 2008 Dark, winey blackberry, fig and anise notes are supported by cassis and sweet spice on the finish. Dense but very polished.	93	\$80
DE TRAFFORD Straw Wine Stellenbosch 2008 Starts slowly, then turns creamy, with green tea, ginger, persimmon and heather honey. A beauty. Chenin Blanc.	93	\$47 375ml
ERNIE ELS Stellenbosch Signature 2007 Ripe and suave, delivering alluring flavors of blackberry, plum sauce and roasted fig. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	93	\$95
HAMILTON RUSSELL Chardonnay Hemel-en-Aarde Valley 2010 Lush and inviting, with layers of fig, persimmon, mango and creamed Jonagold apple fruit, all supported by finely beaded acidity.	93	\$32
L'ORMARINS Cabernet Sauvignon Coastal Region Anthonij Rupert 2007 Dense and powerfully rendered, with layers of plum, fig sauce, roasted espresso bean and tar. A strong, modern-style Cabernet.	93	\$65
REYNEKE Reserve White Stellenbosch 2010 A gorgeous white, with toasted brioche and straw notes laid over pure Meyer lemon, chamomile, salted butter and blanched almond.	93	\$40
RUST EN VREDE Stellenbosch 2008 Pure and driven, with beautiful red currant, blackberry and plum fruit coursing along. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	93	\$45
RUST EN VREDE Syrah Stellenbosch Single Vineyard 2009 Nicely layered, with dense fig paste, currant preserves and linzer torte flavors laced with anise, graphite and black tea.	93	\$130

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
BUITENVERWACHTING Chardonnay Constantia 2010 A mouthfilling white, with ripe fig, creamed melon and pear flavors.	92	\$20
PAUL CLUVER Chardonnay Elgin 2009 This still has racy cut, with a core of green and yellow apple fruit.	91	\$20
ATARAXIA MOUNTAIN Sauvignon Blanc Western Cape 2011 Very persistent, offering lemon zest, floral and grapefruit notes.	90	\$20
DE WETSHOF Chardonnay Robertson Lesca 2010 This is nicely toasty, with creamed pear, fig and apple fruit flavors.	90	\$18
NEIL ELLIS Sauvignon Blanc Groenekloof 2010 A crackling version, filled with thyme, chive and fleur de sel.	90	\$18
KEN FORRESTER Chenin Blanc Stellenbosch Reserve 2010 Juicy and focused, with mouthwatering pear, fig and apple notes.	90	\$15

TOP VALUES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
JARDIN Syrah Stellenbosch 2007 Maturing nicely, with new flavors taking over from the core of fruit.	90	\$19
RUSTENBERG Chardonnay Stellenbosch 2010 Juicy pear, yellow apple and melon rind flavors pump along.	90	\$20
SOUTHERN RIGHT Sauvignon Blanc Walker Bay 2010 Mouthwatering, with lemon zest, chive, gooseberry and flint notes.	90	\$19
SPICE ROUTE Chakalaka Swartland 2009 Dark and winey, with sappy flavors and nice range. Syrah blend.	90	\$20
BUITENVERWACHTING Sauvignon Blanc Constantia 2011 A deliciously crunchy style, showing flint and lime notes.	89	\$15
DE MORGENZON Chardonnay Western Cape DMZ 2010 A ripe white, with well-focused yellow and green apple fruit.	89	\$15
MULLINEUX Kloof Street Swartland 2009 Shows mesquite, damson plum and black cherry fruit. Syrah blend.	89	\$20
WARWICK Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch Professor Black 2010 Lively, with a ripe beam of lemon and pink grapefruit notes.	89	\$20
THE WINERY OF GOOD HOPE Shiraz Stellenbosch Mountainside 2010 Nicely polished, offering crushed blackberry and black cherry fruit.	89	\$14
A.A. BADENHORST FAMILY Chenin Blanc Swartland Secateurs 2011 Plump and forward, with yellow apple, melon and heather flavors.	88	\$15
ERNIE ELS Big Easy Red Western Cape 2009 Offers sweet spice, licorice, plum and linzer torte notes. Shiraz blend.	88	\$20
FAIRVIEW Sauvignon Blanc Darling 2010 This really crackles, with lots of lime, kiwifruit and fleur de sel.	88	\$13
GLEN CARLOU Grand Classique Paarl 2008 Quite toasty, with mocha and fig up front. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	88	\$20
GLENELLY Cabernet Sauvignon Stellenbosch The Glass Collection 2010 A direct, winey red, with slightly chewy currant and fig fruit.	88	\$20
GOATS DO ROAM WINE COMPANY Goat-Roti Coastal Region 2008 Up front, with plum sauce and licorice notes. Syrah and Viognier.	88	\$20
GROOT CONSTANTIA Sauvignon Blanc Constantia 2011 Bracing, with crunchy lime, pippin apple and kiwifruit notes.	88	\$20
L'ORMARINS Sauvignon Blanc Western Cape Protea 2010 A lean style, with good cut to the lime, chive and chalk notes.	88	\$16
RAATS FAMILY Chenin Blanc Coastal Region Original Unwooded 2010 Fresh and pure, offering lime, peach and green melon flavors.	88	\$15
RUDERA Chenin Blanc Western Cape De Tradisie 2009 Shows a mature edge, with piecrust, glazed pear, almond and quince.	88	\$14
RUST EN VREDE Merlot Stellenbosch 2010 Exhibits a nice winey core of plum and black currant fruit.	88	\$20
SPICE ROUTE Sauvignon Blanc Darling 2011 Offers notes of white peach, honeysuckle, lemon zest and straw.	88	\$15