

J O U R N A L T A S T E D

08 / November 2012

SOUTH AFRICA

by MARKUS DEL MONEGO & ANDREAS LARSSON

100% BLIND

STELLENBOSCH (page 2), PAARL (page 4), ELGIN (page 4),
BREEDEKLOOF (page 5), WESTERN CAPE (page 5),
DURBANVILLE HILLS (page 5), CEDERBERG (page 6),
OTHER REGIONS & WARDS (page 6).

STELLEN- BOSCH

94,5 | MORGENSTER

Full bodied, elegant, classic, dry 2006

Andréas LARSSON - Developed, ruby red colour; beautiful nose, intense with notes of smoke, truffle, wild berries and fine oak; the palate has sweet fruit, a soft but mouth filling structure, very lingering and complex aftertaste - a splendid example. 94

Markus del MONEGO - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue and black centre. Opulent and elegant, a wine with freshness in a classic style. Aromas reminiscent of blackcurrant, plums, vanilla, mild spices and balmy note. On the palate well structured with good length, well integrated tannins, great balance and a touch of minerality adding to the complexity of the wine. 95

93 | MEERLUST

RUBICON

Bordeaux Blend 2007

AL - Quite developed, ruby red colour; very intense, elegant and refined nose, Bordeaux like with notes of tobacco, fine spices, dark berries, blackcurrant and plum; the wines shows a good level of complexity on the palate, dense, dark and chewy fruit with complex spiciness, finely grained tannin and a very long, resonant aftertaste - a very fine and stylish wine. 93

MdM - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue and black centre. Opulent and elegant, quite classic in style with aromas reminiscent of blackcurrant, red peppers and mild spices. On the palate well structured with good length, well integrated tannins and almost juicy finish. 93

92,5 | MORGENSTER

LOURENS RIVER VALLEY

Full bodied, elegant, classic, dry 2006

AL - Slightly developed, ruby red. Very appealing, classic nose - Bordeaux like with leather, tobacco, blackcurrant and spices. The palate is full and has serious structure, attractive level of complexity, finely grained tannin, complex spiciness, plenty of flavour intensity and very good length; a complex and refined wine that reminds you of fine Bordeaux. 92

MdM - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue. Very elegant nose with ripe and balmy aromas, almost Claret like in style. On the palate clean and well balanced with finely grained tannins and freshness. Good depth and length. A classic style. 93

91 | MURATIE

ALBERTA ANNEMARIE MERLOT 2008

AL - Rather dark, ruby nuance; the nose offers dark berries, plum, coffee and mocha. Quite rich structure, good weight, packed with dark fruit and coffee; there is a high level of tannin, but it is perfectly melted into the wine at this stage, very good length and overall balance; there is some complexity as well - very appealing and well made! 91

MdM - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue. Elegant perfume, almost floral, violets, blackberries and dark stone fruit. On the palate well structured, still youthful with good balance. 91

90,5 | JORDAN WINE ESTATE

SYRAH 2009

AL - Quite ambitious nose with plenty of new oak, dark ripe berries, sweet spices and smoke; full bodied with rigid structure and plenty of tannin, still quite marked by the oak, but showing good length and a spicy finish - needs some patience, let the oak settle down and drink from 2014. 89

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Opulent nose with a touch of cedar wood and leather, meaty character, intense fruit and flowery aromas, reminiscent of white lilies. On the palate smooth character, well integrated alcohol, good length with a rather juicy finish. 92

89,5 | FLEUR DU CAP

SHIRAZ 2010

AL - Dark and bright purple; the nose is rather floral and darkly fruited with notes of blackberry, violets and new oak; medium to high concentration with plenty of fine tannins, some roasted notes from the oak and a spicy, fairly long finish. 89

MdM - Deep, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Modern and opulent with aromas reminiscent of dark chocolate, plums and black cherries, blackberries and mild spices. On the palate opulent with good concentration, meaty character and rather good length. 90

89,5 | STARK-CONDÉ WINES

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dry wooded 2007

AL - Quite attractive and classic nose of tobacco, leather, coffee, blackcurrant and dark berries; the palate is concentrated, but with rather soft extraction and juicy texture, good freshness, purity and length. 90

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with elegant character, discreet fruit. On the palate well structured, tannins well integrated, rather good length. 89

89,5 | STARK-CONDÉ WINES

SYRAH

Dry wooded 2007

AL - Quite closed aromatically - dark, inky fruit and sweet spices; the palate is quite full, still a touch dense and closed with plenty of dark fruit, spices, smoke and a long finish - it still needs some time to open up, but most attractive material. 90

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Discreet nose, which make a rather closed impression. On the palate well presented with well structured, medium weight and length. 89

89 | AALDERING VINEYARDS & WINES

CABERNET

SAUVIGNON-MERLOT

Dry 2007

AL - Medium deep, ruby red; the nose is fairly Bordeaux like with notes of blackcurrant, leather, tobacco and fine oak; the palate is full and structured; however, starting to soften with attractive development, some complex notes and well melted tannin, elegant fruit and a very good length - a lovely, classic style. 91

MdM - Dark, purple red with brick red hue. Ripe aromas, dried fruit, balmy notes and mild spices. On the palate opulent character with a touch of sweetness and well structured, medium length. 87

89 | ALLÉE BLEUE

CABERNET SAUVIGNON/
MERLOT

Red 2010

AL - Clear and dark ruby with a purple flush; the nose is attractive with some hints of roasted coffee, wild herbs, blackcurrant, cherry and gentle oak; the palate has medium weight, but good flavour intensity in a rather restrained style with a good level of freshness, juicy red and dark berries, wild herbs, roasted coffee and good length. Deserves another year of ageing to improve and to round out. 89

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Fine nose with aromas reminiscent of blackcurrant, dark berries and a touch of vanilla with fresh ground coffee in the background. Discreet oak influence. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and rather good length. Still youthful with a certain potential for evolution. 89

89 | ALTO

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dry 2009

AL - Dark ruby/purple; modern style with some new oak, vanilla and smoke, dark fruit, blackcurrant and herbs; the palate is rather full with dense dark fruit, blackcurrant and a herbal spiciness, fine freshness and a quite good length - will gain from another 2 years of aging. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Opulent nose but still elegant, blackcurrant, dark chocolate, mulberries and mild spices. On the palate a touch of tobacco, well structured, ripe fruit, medium weight and good length. 90

89 | DORNIER

DONATUS

Bordeaux blend 2009

AL - Dark and dense colour; rather viscous with pure, dark, fruit on the nose, blueberry, blackcurrant and discreet notes of oak and vanilla. The palate has good extraction and concentration, layers of dark, inky fruit backed up by attractive, vibrant freshness, very good length - serious material, needs 2 more years to soften and develop nuance. 91

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with aromas reminiscent of plums and elderberries. On the palate well balanced with aromas of blackcurrant, medium weight and length. 87

89 | JORDAN WINE ESTATE

THE OUTLIER SAUVIGNON BLANC

Wooded 2010

AL - Intense nose, some influence of new oak, a hint of vanilla and smoke; the fruit is rich and offers sweet citrus and pineapple, broad and unctuous palate, creamy with notes of lemon curd and vanilla, yet with good freshness, good length and overall balance, well made and promising. 89

MdM - Intense, yellow colour with golden hue. A wine with distinct oak influence, aromas reminiscent of caramel and vanilla, roasted flavours, ripe grapefruit and tropical fruit. On the palate opulent and well structure with aromas reminiscent of roasted chestnuts in the finish. 89

89 | STELENZICHT

STELLENZICHT SYRAH

Dry 2004

AL - A fairly evolved, traditional style with balsamic notes, dried fruit, spices and leather; soft and supple palate, quite full with intense flavour - a traditional style, but with attractive expression and character, fine length and a perfect drinkability. 89

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Aged with grace, elegant balmy flavours and a touch of dried fruit; on the palate well balanced with good structure and still strong tannins. 89

89 | WATERKLOOF

CIRCLE OF LIFE WHITE

Dry White Blend 2011

AL - Very intense nose, a high proportion of new oak, although well integrated - vanilla, roasted nuts, apricot and lemon curd emanates from the glass; rather full and structured with tropical fruit notes, a creamy texture and well integrated freshness, assertive and long finish - well made and potent - still a touch on the young side. 89

MdM - Intense, yellow colour with golden hue. A wine with elegant oak influence, aromas reminiscent of roasted flavours and vanilla, ripe tropical fruit in the background. On the palate opulent and well structured with aromas reminiscent of brioche and ripe pear. 89

88,5 | FLEUR DU CAP

CHARDONNAY UNFILTERED 2011

AL - Slightly complex nose that offers vanilla, nuts, ripe citrus and stone fruit; the palate is full with plenty of fruit, yet retaining good freshness and well integrated oak, fine length and a hint of complexity on the finish. 88

MdM - Bright, yellow with slightly golden hue. On the nose well structured with aromas reminiscent of vanilla and roasted flavours, lemon zest, pear and apple. On the palate well balanced with crisp acidity and almost creamy texture. A convincing wine with well used oak. 89

88,5 | MURATIE

ANSELA VAN DE CAAB 2009

AL - Purple core and ruby rim; fruity nose with hints of freshly crushed red and dark berries. Medium to full bodied structure, still slightly unresolved and tight, but good purity of fruit, smoky and spicy tones shows, once again, dried meat notes, good length - needs another 1-2 years to develop the full expression of its nuances. 87

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Very elegant character in a rather classic style - blueberries, blackberries and a touch of vanilla. On the palate well balanced with freshness and length. 90

88,5 | ZONNEBLOEM MERLOT 2010

AL - Deep, ruby red colour; very attractive nose of dark plum, blackcurrant and herbal spiciness. The palate is quite full with a tannic backbone and dark fruit that is backed up by a good level of freshness, a hint of herbs and chocolate on the finish; quite Bordeaux like, charmingly

tasteful and balanced - should improve with 2-3 more years of bottle maturing. 89

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with aromas reminiscent of blackberries, elderberries and red peppers.

On the palate well balanced in a slightly rustic (austere) style, medium weight and length. 88

88 | DORNIER

CABERNET

SAUVIGNON

Classic 2007

AL - Extremely dark colour, almost opaque; the nose indicates ripeness and dark inky fruit - blackberry, blackcurrant and blueberry; the palate is very concentrated and rich with attractive, dark fruit, bright freshness and very long finish, high extraction and tannins are starting to soften - still quite massive and unexpressive, but truly with the potential to develop; wait for at least 2 more years. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Concentrated nose with intense aromas, reminiscent of blackberries and red peppers. On the palate well balanced with good length, but rather harsh tannins. Seems slightly over extracted. 88

88 | FLEUR DU CAP

CABERNET UNFILTERED 2009

AL - Bright, dark ruby; generous nose of fine tobacco, spice, dark berries and blackcurrant, quite Bordeaux like, but with a hint of meaty/smoky notes; the palate is on the fuller side with fine extraction and tannic backbone, good purity of fruit and bright freshness, some herbal notes on the finish - well made; should develop well, keep for 2 more years at least. 89

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with medium intensity, quite discreet fruit. On the palate medium weight and length, rather lighter style. 87

88 | FLEUR DU CAP

MERLOT 2010

AL - Medium to deep, ruby red; the nose exudes leather, dark berries, plum and dry spices. Fine balance on the palate, quite dense dark fruit, robust structure, tannin still on the young side, but well balance; there is some dry spices, herbs and blackcurrant as well as some herbal notes, fairly long aftertaste, well made. Drink from 2013. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Well structured nose with aromas reminiscent of plums, cherries and blackberries. Slightly spicy tones in the background. On the palate well structured with slightly dryish tannins and medium length. 88

88 | JORDAN WINE ESTATE

CHARDONNAY

Wooded 2010

AL - Most attractive nose that combines stone fruit, light smokiness, grilled nuts and fine oak; the palate is rather full with creamy texture, well integrated oak and abundant fruit, appealingly made with a good dose of freshness on the finish. 88

MdM - Bright, yellow with golden hue. Distinct oak influence with slightly smoky tones, discreet fruit in the background. On the palate clean and well balanced with crisp acidity, minerality and rather good length. 88

88 | MURATIE

RONNIE MELCK SHIRAZ 2009

AL - Dark colour; the nose exudes high ripeness with hints of dried fruit, prune and figs and slightly Port like aromas. The palate is rich and highly extracted, quite dry at present with dark fruit and a generous touch of oak - should hopefully soften with age, ambitious, but slightly too dry today. 84

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Well concentrated but still elegant

fruit, balanced oak influence and elegant minerality. Almost meaty bouquet. On the palate well structured with freshness, opulent character and good length. 92

88 | NEETHLINGSHOF

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Dry 2012

AL - Intense nose with appealing stone fruit, pineapple and ripe citrus as well as a hint of minerality; a light spritz on the palate, juicy and fresh, good fruit and some green notes, a touch of kiwi with a clean, rather long finish. 87

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Crisp character, a mixture of tropical fruit and gooseberries, green peppers and fresh cut grass. On the palate well structured with rather good length and crisp finish. 89

88 | NEETHLINGSHOF

THE CARACAL

Dry 2010

AL - Medium to deep, ruby red colour; the nose offers some new oak, vanilla, dark berries and green herbs; the palate is on the full side it offers juicy, dark berries and bright crispness, some herbal notes that add freshness, medium high level of tannin, attractively balanced length - well made. 88

MdM - Purple red with violet hue. Discreet nose with aromas reminiscent of mulberries and blackberries, vanilla in the background. On the palate clean and well balanced with medium weight and length. 88

88 | THE HOUSE

OF JC LE ROUX

PONGRACZ NV

AL - Pale yellow with fine mousse; the nose is quite Champagne like with some bready notes, almond, citrus and grey pear; very attractive grip on the palate, creamy with grey pear and ripe citrus notes, good substance and length; very good. 88

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Elegant nose with aromas reminiscent of brioche, elderflowers and fresh hazelnuts, citrus fruit and a hint of ripe pear. On the palate clean and crisp with good mousseux and mouthfeel. Convincing quality. 88

87,5 | AALDERING VINEYARDS & WINES

PINOTAGE

Dry 2009

AL - Rather ambitious attempt with plenty of new oak on the nose; slightly darker fruit character; medium to full palate with high acidity, well rounded tannin, crushed berry notes and good freshness, medium to long finish. **86**

MdM - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue and almost black centre. Opulent nose with interesting aromas, reminiscent of Darjeeling leaves, dried plums, balmy notes, vanilla and a touch of caramel. On the palate well balanced tannins and acidity, a touch of sweetness, Darjeeling leaves again and dried fruit. Good length. **89**

87,5 | DORNIER

CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT

Bordeaux Blend 2009

AL - Dark, dense colour; the nose is spicy, smoky and meaty, dark berries and dried meat, reminds me of Pinotage; the palate is concentrated with dark fruit, medium high tannin and a certain complexity - needs some more time to soften, but an interesting wine with plenty of character. **87**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Opulent nose with spicy notes, white pepper, cloves and vanilla, ripe blackberries, meaty with slightly smoky notes. On the palate well balanced with freshness and rather good length. **88**

87,5 | FLEUR DU CAP

PINOTAGE 2010

AL - Slightly roasted nose, some new oak, spices and freshly crushed berries; medium weight and structure, there is a tannic backbone, but of fairly ripe tannin, attractive, appealing spicy finish. **87**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. In the nose slightly smoky, ripe fruit, plums and blackberries. On the palate juicy and attractively harmonious with well structured, medium length. **88**

87 | ZONNEBLOEM

SHIRAZ 2010

AL - Quite rich and modern nose, new oak, vanilla and ripe dark fruitiness; well structured with layers of dark fruit and young fine tannins - still slightly young and unexpressive, but with attractive balance, length and concentration - should drink well from 2014. **87**

MdM - Deep, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Intense aromas reminiscent of blackberries and plums, roasted aromas, dark chocolate and a touch of smoke. On the palate opulent and powerful with distinct tannins and well structured, medium length. **87**

86,5 | FLEUR DU CAP

ORGANICALLY GROWN SAUVIGNON BLANC 2012

AL - Floral nose with hints of chamomile and ripe pear; the palate is bone dry with high, radiant freshness, attractive purity, firm and restrained with a bright, clean finish. **85**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Ripe tropical fruit on the nose, peaches and apricots in the background. On the palate juicy and well balanced with crisp acidity and well structured, medium length. **88**

86,5 | THE HOUSE OF JC LE ROUX

LA FLEURETTE NV

AL - Medium deep, rose colour and vivid bubbles; the nose is very particular with an exotic expression of honey, spices, orange peel and fresh grapes, in fact, quite Muscat like; the palate is sweet and fruity with grapey notes and a persistent aftertaste. **87**

MdM - Dark Rosé with orange hue. Slight aroma of brioche, discreet cherry fruit and ice tea. On the palate crisp, good moussoux with pleasant sweetness and medium length. **86**

86,5 | THE HOUSE OF JC LE ROUX

PONGRACZ ROSÉ NV

AL - Bright, strawberry fragrance, citrus, red berries and cherry aromas on nose; pleasing creaminess and freshness on the palate, generous fruit and length. **86**

MdM - Bright rosé. Clean nose with discreet fruit, a touch of brioche, citrus fruit and raspberries. On the palate clean and crisp with good moussoux and mouthfeel. **87**

86,5 | ZONNEBLOEM

PINOTAGE 2010

AL - Attractive nose - sweet, fruity, smoky and meaty with fine spiciness; the palate has medium weight with red and dark berries, young tannic grip, some notes of smoked meat are present and a quite long, spicy finish. **86**

MdM - Deep, purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with an almost elegant character, ripe fruit, blackberries, mulberries and a touch of minerality. On the palate well balanced with juicy character and well structured, medium length. **87**

86 | FLEUR DU CAP

CABERNET 2010

AL - Young, dense colour; pure aromas of blackcurrant and dark berries; there is a presence of some notes of wood and vanilla as well. The palate is quite full, still youthful and tight with present tannin and high freshness, attractive dark fruit with a fairly long finish - drink from 2013. **86**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Pure fruit with good structure, medium weight and length on the palate. **86**

86 | TAMBOERSKLOOF

SYRAH 2008

AL - Medium deep, ruby, red colour; the nose shows a mix of red and dark berries and dry spices; the palate is medium bodied with an attractive, spicy grip, rather soft tannin, polished with juicy red and dark berries and a spicy finish. **86**

MdM - Deep, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Fruity nose with aromas reminiscent of dark berries, mild spices and tones of vanilla. On the palate medium weight and length. **86**

86 | ZONNEBLOEM

CHARDONNAY 2011

AL - Clean nose, some hints of citrus and fresh butter with yellow fruit; the palate is clean and fresh with well balanced oak and pleasant fruit; a delicate more restrained style. **86**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean nose with discreet citrus fruit and aromas reminiscent of Williams (Bartlett) pear. On the palate clean and crisp with pleasant mouthfeel and medium length. **86**

85,5 | FLEUR DU CAP

CHARDONNAY 2011

AL - Pleasant nose, quite generous with a whiff of vanilla, discreet wood and stone fruit notes. The palate has attractive freshness and purity, good weight and bright fruit flavours, medium long finish with fine balance between generous fruit and freshness. **86**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean nose with rather closed character and somehow restrained fruit. On the palate well structured with a touch of vanilla and discreet minerality, lemon aroma and medium length. **85**

85,5 | FLEUR DU CAP

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2011

AL - Some complexity on the nose, a mineral notion, good ripeness and tropical fruit notes; juicy and zesty on the palate, mouth filling with generous texture and some bitterness on the finish, quite long though. **86**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Slightly pyrotechnical notes, hints of reduction. Restrained fruit with aromas reminiscent of grapefruit and gooseberries. On the palate good mouthfeel, medium weight and length. **85**

85 | FLEUR DU CAP

CHENIN BLANC 2011

AL - Rather elegant nose, a notion of minerality, ripe citrus and stone fruit; the palate is medium bodied with crisp freshness and pure fruit, appealingly balanced with a bright finish. **85**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean nose with ripe fruit, grapefruit, gooseberries and a touch of minerality. On the palate clean and crisp with medium weight and length. **85**

85 | OBIKWA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2011

AL - Slightly reductive with some burnt notes, red fruity notes of redcurrant and cherry; the palate is medium bodied, slightly softer structure with a medium long finish - slightly youthful and should be allowed some time to soften. **84**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Fruit driven nose with aromas reminiscent of blackberries and blackcurrant. On the palate juicy and fresh with well expressed fruit and well structured, medium length. **86**

85 | ZONNEBLOEM

CABERNET 2010

AL - Dark and bright colour; slightly young and reductive at present, notes of freshly crushed red and dark berries; medium bodied with young tannin and high freshness, some oak on the aftertaste - in a young phase at present and should have some time to develop. **85**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Smoky nose with almost a whiff of petroleum like aromas, ripe berry fruit and mild spices. On the palate well structured with medium weight and length. **85**

85 | ZONNEBLOEM

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2011

AL - The nose indicates ripeness and offers notes of melon, pear and lemon zest; the palate is youthful and rather restrained with juicy acidity, some herbal notes, pear and a fairly long, clean finish. **85**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. On the nose mature fruit, grapefruit, gooseberries, citrus fruit with discreet minerality in the background. On the palate medium weight and length with a slight touch of sweetness in the finish. **85**

84,5 | JACOBSDAL

PINOTAGE

Dry 2010

AL - Sweet, red fruit, spices and smoked meat; slightly lighter palate with notes of redcurrant, fine spices and smoked meat with a fresh finish. **84**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Fruit driven style with aromas reminiscent of sweet cherries, blackberries and berry jam, vanilla and chocolate. On the palate medium weight and well structured, medium length. **85**

84 | OBIKWA

SHIRAZ 2011

AL - Youthful with mainly primary fruit notes, red and dark berries and a sweet spiciness on the medium bodied palate, rather soft texture and juicy finish. **84**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Aromatic nose with tones of petrol like aroma and smoky notes, dark stone fruit in the background. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and length. **84**

84 | TWO OCEANS

PINOT NOIR 2011

AL - The nose offers sweet fruit, fine spices and some hints of smoked meat; the palate is medium bodied, still young with fine but present tannins, attractive fruit and plenty of smoky, spicy notes, fine length; tastes like a virtual mix between Burgundy and Rhone. **84**

MdM - Ruby red. On the nose smoked aromas, pyrotechnical, dark berries and Morello cherries. On the palate a touch of sweetness, discreet fruit, medium weight and length. **84**

84 | TWO OCEANS

SHIRAZ ROSE 2012

AL - Deep, rosé colour; pure and intense nose, red cherry, pear and some herbal notes; the palate is zesty and generous with a medium body and crisp aftertaste. **83**

MdM - Intense rosé with violet hue. Aromas of cranberries, cranberry juice and raspberries. On the palate clean with well balanced presence and medium length. Characterful wine. **85**

83,5 | DORNIER

PINOTAGE

Fresh 2010

AL - Slightly balsamic nose with red fruity notes; high acid on the palate, slightly austere with medium weight and length. **82**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Clean nose with slightly jammy character, stewed blackberries and cherries. On the palate clean and juicy with fresh fruit and medium length. **85**

83,5 | OBIKWA

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2011

AL - Young, pure and slightly mineral nose, vibrant with hints of citrus and pineapple; juicy and crisp palate with rounded acidity, balanced bitterness and generous fruit on the finish. **84**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean but discreet nose, aromas reminiscent of grapefruit and citrus fruit. On the palate medium weight, slightly mineral and medium length. **83**

83,5 | TWO OCEANS

PINOT GRIGIO 2012

AL - Clean and fairly intense nose with generous fruitiness; rich and mouth filling with pear and stone fruit aromas; rounded palate with medium high acidity and warm finish. **83**

MdM - Straw yellow with green hue. Clean nose with pleasant fruit, ripe apple and pear, physalis (Cape Gooseberry) and slightly tropical fruit. On the palate clean and well balanced with medium weight and length. **84**

82,5 | MURATIE

ISABELLA CHARDONNAY

Dry 2011

AL - Quite woody nose, tutti frutti and green apple; seems rather simple on the palate, the wood dominates and shows an average finish. **81**

MdM - Bright, yellow with golden hue. Clean nose with restrained fruit and distinct oak influence. On the palate medium weight and length. Too much oak for the character of the wine. **84**

82,5 | MURATIE

LAURENS CAMPHER BLENDED WHITE 2011

AL - Rather ripe nose with tropical fruitiness and some floral notes; the palate shows high freshness and some spritz, a hint of bitterness on the finish with average length. **82**

MdM - Bright yellow with golden hue. Honey and oak on the nose; opulent on the palate, but slightly phenolic in the finish. A wine which needs to accompany food to balance its character. **83**

82,5 | OBIKWA

MOSCATO 2011

AL - Slightly floral and grapey nose; generous fruit on the palate, quite light but refreshing with a hint of sweetness on the aftertaste - easy to like. **83**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Relatively closed with discreet nose, lacks Moscato typicality; on the palate juicy and sweet, but rather monodimensional. **82**

82 | AALDERING

VINEYARDS & WINES

CHARDONNAY

Dry 2011

AL - Slightly sweet nose with hints of tutti frutti and a touch of oak; the palate is rather simple with sweet fruit, woody notes and a light finish. **81**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean nose with aromas reminiscent of apple and citrus fruit, slightly ethereal. On the palate crisp with medium weight and length. **83**

81,5 | TWO OCEANS

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2011

AL - Pure nose with herbal and floral notes; the palate is zesty and fresh with some tropical notes, herbal spiciness and hint of bitterness on the finish. **83**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean but discreet on the nose, restrained fruit and slightly reductive style. On the palate medium weight, slightly earthy and good length. **80**

90,5 | BLAAUWKLIPPEN

AGRICULTURAL ESTATES

STELLENBOSCH

RESERVE SHIRAZ

Classic Wood matured 2009

AL - Opaque colour; the nose is Port like and offers hints of very ripe fruit, pepper, prunes and dried figs. The palate is immensely concentrated and highly extracted without being dry, very massive but, at this stage, not yet expressing the fullness of nuance - should probably age well and develop complexity and aromatics. Drink from 2014. **90**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Opulent, almost Port style nose, aromas of dried prunes and figs, dark chocolate and vanilla. On the palate massive tannins; however, ripe, opulent taste and rather good length. Interesting potential for future development, but requires patience. **91**

PAARL

91 | GLEN CARLOU

GRAVEL QUARRY 2008

AL - Very dense core, but developed rim; the nose is very packed with oak, vanilla, spices and dark fruit with some mineral notes, some roasted oak and coffee notes; the palate is immensely concentrated and offers dark, inky fruit, blackcurrant, liquorice, mint and balsamic notes, attractively balanced as the concentrated dark fruit is backed up by an appealing level of freshness and a notion of minerality, very good length and aftertaste - great potential. **91**
MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Balmy character in the nose, ripe berry fruit, a touch of leather, cedar wood and chocolate. On the palate opulent character, juicy, but in the finish slightly dryish tannins appear. **91**

90 | DRUK-MY-NIET

CABERNET FRANC

Dry red 2009

AL - Bright, dark purple colour; very enchanting purity on the nose, fine spices, tobacco, aromatic herbs and dark inky fruit such as blackcurrant, cherry and plum; the palate is fairly concentrated with attractive extraction, present, yet not harsh tannin, adds structure and length, juicy bright fruit, very fine length and some complexity on the aftertaste - a fine example with both drinkability and agreeability in a young wine. **90**
MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Aromas reminiscent of blueberries, green peppers and blackcurrant. On the palate fresh with elegant acidity and good tannic structure, well built with rather good length. **90**

89,5 | DRUK-MY-NIET

INVICTUS

Dry red 2009

AL - Dark purple core, more red on the rim. The nose offers smoke, dark fruit, blackcurrant, cherry; the palate still seems young and unresolved, very dense and concentrated dark fruit, high level of extraction and a long aftertaste - should be allowed another 1-2 years to soften; lovely material and potential. **89**
MdM - Purple red with almost garnet red hue, very dense colour. In the nose quite opulent with aromas reminiscent of mild spices, slightly smoky notes and balmy character. Dark berry fruit in the background. On the palate clean and well balanced with smooth character, good mouth-feel and length. **90**

89,5 | NEDERBURG

MANOR HOUSE CABERNET 2009

AL - Quite dark colour with a slight purple hint; dark berries, blackcurrant, mint and fine oak dominates the nose; the palate has fine balance, still slightly youthful with high acidity and rigid tannin, but with attractive proportions of dark, inky fruit and a long finish - should develop really well. **90**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Aromas reminiscent of green peppers, blackcurrant and notes of minerality. On the palate medium weight and well structured, medium length, tannins well integrated. **89**

89 | GLEN CARLOU

GRAND CLASSIQUE

Bordeaux Blend 2009

AL - Quite dense ruby red with a watery rim; bright dark fruit aromas of blueberry and blackcurrant emanate from the glass, there is also some notes of fine spices and aromatic herbs in the background, a gentle hint of oak; medium to high concentration on the palate, high freshness and dark fruit, integrated tannin and a balanced, long finish, well made in a classic style. **89**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Discreet fruit in a rather classic style. On the palate clean and well balanced with medium weight and length. **89**

88 | MAN VINTNERS

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dry wooded 2010

AL - Medium deep, garnet colour; the nose shows a hint of oak, some spicy elements, pepper, dark berries and plum; the palate is quite full with opulent fruit, slightly on the sweet side with polished tannin and an overall soft texture, good length and a rounded, slightly spicy finish. **88**

MdM - Purple red with violet hue. Elegant nose with aromas reminiscent of blackcurrant, sweet cherries, a touch of dark chocolate and mild spices. On the palate elegant with a touch of sweetness, well balanced tannins and rather good length. **88**

88 | MAN VINTNERS

SHIRAZ

Dry wooded 2010

AL - Youthful nose that offers sweet fruit, red and dark berries; a lighter palate, soft and juicy with attractive freshness and mild spices on the finish. **86**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Nose with Rhône style character, meaty with slightly smoky notes and a touch of white flowers in the background. On the palate well balanced with fresh character and good structure, rather good length. **90**

88 | PLAISIR DE MERLE

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dry 2008

AL - Medium deep, ruby with an aged rim; quite developed and refined nose of cigar box, mild spices, dark berries and leather; the palate is full and dense with appealing dark fruit, some smoky and meaty notes with hints of smoked meat, bright dark fruit and a tannic backbone. good freshness on the finish. **89**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Elegant nose with discreet fruit; on the palate juicy with discreet fruit, well integrated tannins and well structured, medium length. **87**

87,5 | NEDERBURG

MANOR HOUSE SHIRAZ 2009

AL - Dark, ruby red; the nose is offering dark berries and sweet spices; the palate is on the full side with good level of concentration and fine extraction, ripe tannin in the background, fairly long berry infused finish - still somewhat marked by oak, but that should integrate well into the body of the wine - drink from 2013. **87**

MdM - Deep, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Delicate aromas on the nose, dark fruit, minerality and a touch of smoke. On the palate well structured, tannins well integrated, medium weight and length. **88**

87 | GLEN CARLOU

CHARDONNAY 2011

AL - Sweet nose, almond paste, nuts, yellow fruit and a hint of oak; the palate is slightly creamy with vanilla, some wood, almond and ripe citrus flavours, quite long with a good level of acidity on the finish. **86**

MdM - Bright, yellow with golden hue. Intense oak influence with aromas reminiscent of vanilla and caramel, ripe pear and brioche. On the palate opulent, well balanced with well structured, medium length. **88**

86,5 | GLEN CARLOU

QUARTZ STONE 2011

AL - Sweet and nutty nose, hints of almond, stone fruits and some roasted notes; the palate is medium to full with rather ripe fruit, some roasted oak in the background, a good level of freshness despite the rather creamy and round texture. **86**

MdM - Bright, yellow with golden hue. Opulent character with distinct oak influence, rather restrained fruit, pineapple in the background. On the palate opulent and well structured with medium length. **87**

86 | MAN VINTNERS

CHENIN BLANC

Unwooded, dry 2011

AL - Generous and rather ripe nose with apricot, plum and a hint of minerality; well balanced with juicy fruit, rounded acidity and medium length. **86**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. A rather warm climate character with slightly restrained aromas of tropical fruit and hazelnuts. On the palate soft, balanced with slightly roasted aromas. **86**

85 | GLEN CARLOU

PINOT NOIR 2011

AL - Light colour; sweet and perfumed nose, aromas of citrus, bitter orange and red berries.

The palate is medium bodied and offers notes of redcurrant and sour berries flavours; there is a hint of smoky and meaty notes in the background, an allusion of bitterness on the medium to long finish. **85**

MdM - Dark, ruby red. On the nose distinct vanilla fragrance, roasted aromas, opulent character, dark berry fruit, black cherries. On the palate vanilla and roasted aromas, restrained fruit, medium weight and length. **85**

85 | PLAISIR DE MERLE

CHARDONNAY

Dry 2010

AL - Rather neutral on the nose, pure fruit, green apple and melon, very gentle oak touch; the palate is on the lighter side, rounded with medium long finish. **84**

MdM - Bright, golden yellow. Discreet aromas in the nose reminiscent of ripe pear and juicy apricots with slightly spicy notes. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and length. **86**

84,5 | NEDERBURG

FOUNDATION SAUVIGNON BLANC 2012

AL - Pleasing, clean nose with a fine degree of intensity, floral, herbal and fruity notes; fresh and restrained style with high acidity and a hint of bitterness on the finish. **84**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Restrained fruit, almost closed character - needs time to open up. On the palate clean with soft character and discreet fruit. **85**

83 | NEDERBURG

WINE MASTER RESERVE CABERNET 2010

AL - Light to medium deep ruby; red fruit, sour cherry, herbs and balsamic notes; a lighter structure with less concentration and very high acidity, slightly lean on the finish, traditional style that needs time to gain roundness and charm. **82**

MdM - Purple red with violet hue. Rather vegetal aromas on the nose, fruit in the background. On the palate medium weight and length. **84**

82,5 | NEDERBURG

FOUNDATION CABERNET 2011

AL - Light to medium ruby red; slightly more rustic nose, balsamic with red fruit and sour cherry; medium bodied palate, high acidity and quite astringent tannin, medium to long finish - seems quite backward and austere today, should be allowed more time to soften and round off the edges. **83**

MdM - Purple red with almost violet hue. Discreet nose with tones of peppers and restrained fruit. On the palate rather light in style with slightly vegetal character. **82**

ELGIN

95,5 | PAUL CLUVER WINES

NOBLE LATE HARVEST 2011

AL - Beautiful golden colour; very intense perfume, luxurious with honey, candied fruit, apricot, cloudberry and sweet spices. Excellent grip on the palate, lovely ripe fruit, honey and a rich unctuous structure, very smooth with an intense sweetness and bright freshness, great level of complexity and superbly long finish. **94**

MdM - Bright, amber colour. Opulent nose with aromas reminiscent of dried apricots, candied orange peel, vanilla, dried pineapple and mild spices. On the palate opulent with elegant acidity and great length. **97**

93,5 | IONA

ONE MAN BAND

Dry Red 2008

AL - Dark, bright colour; very attractive nose of peppery dark fruit, floral notes, smoke and meat. Beautiful structure on the palate with peppery dark fruit, full and luscious, yet with plenty of freshness and tannic backbone, long lingering and complex aftertaste - very appealing material. Very Rhône like. **93**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre.

Elegant flavour, stylistically reminiscent of an Hermitage. Aromas reminiscent of white pepper, dark berries and black cherries. Vanilla and slightly roasted aromas in the background. On the palate well balanced with peppery spiciness, good fruit, well balanced tannins and great length. **94**

90,5 | PAUL CLUVER WINES

CHARDONNAY

Dry 2010

AL - A quite austere and reductive style with less oak and a notion of minerality, citrus and nuts; seems rather like Burgundian wine; appealing brightness on the palate, very zesty and fresh with elegant fruit - peach and apricot, a certain minerality and long aftertaste, fine balance and complexity. **90**

MdM - Bright, yellow with golden hue. Very elegant, slightly closed character, discreet smokiness, minerality, ripe yellow fruit, peaches and apricots, a touch of pineapple in the background. On the palate elegant and persistent with good length. Classic style with potential. **91**

89,5 | PAUL CLUVER WINES

RIESLING

Off Dry 2010

AL - Attractive mineral nose; flinty with young fruit, white peach, lime, lemon and fresh pineapple; good grip on the palate, close to dry with a firm backbone, zesty fruit and clean, rather long finish. **89**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Aromatic nose with petrol like fragrances, aromas reminiscent of tropical fruit, pineapple, but also passion fruit and peaches. On the palate elegant sweetness, well structured fruit and rather good length. **90**

88,5 | PAUL CLUVER WINES

GEWURZTRAMINER

Off dry 2011

AL - Very spicy and intense nose, dry spices, rose petals, honey and tropical fruit, close to dry; well balanced with a sufficient level of freshness, good length and a generous, spicy finish. **87**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Typical aromas reminiscent of fading roses and lychees, pineapple and mango. On the palate well balanced with a hint of sweetness and good length. **90**

88,5 | PAUL CLUVER WINES

SEVEN FLAGS

Dry 2009

AL - Light ruby red; pure nose that offers notes of red berries, redcurrant and cherry, very gentle oak, fine spices and touch of meat; the palate has fine balance, softened tannins, good freshness and vibrant red fruit flavours, good length and some complexity on the finish; more Burgundian in style. **88**

MdM - Dark, ruby red. On the nose initially slightly reductive, but with some oxygen opening up in a rather positive, more classic style. Raspberries and blackberries, mild spices and a touch of minerality. On the palate clean and well balanced with good length. **89**

88 | PAUL CLUVER WINES

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Sweet 2011

AL - Pale and bright colour; Riesling like nose of lime, lemon and a firm mineral character; palate offers very attractive mineral character, off dry like a Kabinett style, very bright freshness, elegant fruit and long finish - most appealing. **88**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean and typical nose, slightly petrol like and earthy tones, but also ripe citrus fruit. On the palate juicy with almost tropical fruit and well balanced palate. **88**

88 | PAUL CLUVER WINES

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Dry 2011

AL - Clean and rather neutral nose with some notes of citrus and lime; the palate is restrained and zesty in a more mineral style, elegant fruit, citrus and a medium to long aftertaste; appealingly made in a restrained and fresh style. **86**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. A fresh and crisp wine in a rather cool climate style with restrained fruit, elegant aromas of grapefruit and citrus fruit with discreet minerality. On the palate well balanced, crisp with good mouthfeel and well structured, medium length. **90**

85,5 | PAUL CLUVER WINES PINOT NOIR

Dry 2009

AL - Quite fine nose with dry spices, red berries, a hint of confiture (jam) and well tuned oak; the palate is somewhat restrained, still young with a high level of acidity and tannin yet shows elegant fruit and a fresh finish; the wine is still slightly tight and unresolved and deserves acquiring some more bottle aging. **85**

MdM - Dark, ruby red. On the nose discreet fruit, blackberries and raspberries, a touch of dark cherries and chocolate. On the palate vanilla and roasted aromas, distinct acidity, medium weight and length. **86**

BREDEKLOOF

87 | BERGSIG ESTATE SAUVIGNON BLANC

Dry 2012

AL - Pure and aromatic nose, fairly ripe with gooseberries, melon and pear notes; attractively rounded palate with generous fruit, vibrant freshness and a crisp finish. **86**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Quite typical aromas on the nose, gooseberries, kiwis, grapefruit, yet slightly ethereal. On the palate crisp with certain length, well balanced and fruity finish. **88**

87 | DEETLEFS ESTATE PINOTAGE

Dry 2010

AL - Youthful and intense, the nose is dominated by new oak and roasted notes, dark berries and some spiciness; the palate is medium to full, still youthful with a firm backbone, good freshness and juicy fruit; however, slightly marked by oak on the finish - should be allowed some time to soften. **86**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with distinct oak influence, vanilla, roasted aromas and black chocolate. Juicy fruit in the background, mulberries and blackberries, almost floral tones. On the palate juicy and well structured, tannins well integrated, sweet fruit and rather good length. **88**

86,5 | DEETLEFS ESTATE MERLOT

Dry 2010

AL - Medium deep, ruby red with a slightly watery rim; the nose is fairly intense and generous with notes of blackberry, plum, spices and black truffle. The structure is slightly looser with soft tannin, red and dark berries, high acidity, medium tannin and a red fruit driven aftertaste. **86**

MdM - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue. Opulent nose with ripe character, almost balmy aromas, vanilla, mild spices, white pepper, blackberries and cherries. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and length. **87**

86 | DEETLEFS WINERY SHIRAZ

Dry 2010

AL - A fairly light, ruby red colour; the nose is rather spicy with clove, cinnamon, vanilla and red fruity notes. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannic backbone, spicy and smoky on the finish, medium to long finish, quite Rhône like. **87**

MdM - Purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with intense roasted aromas, dark chocolate and vanilla, a slightly vegetal touch in the background. On the palate well balanced with juicy fruit and medium length. **85**

85 | DEETLEFS WINERY SAUVIGNON BLANC SEMILLON

Dry 2012

AL - Green apple, pear and chamomile notes on the nose; rounded and generous palate with attractive freshness and green fruity notes, clean, medium long finish. **85**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Fine fruit on the nose, pineapple, peaches and tones of lemon. On the palate clean and well balanced with an almost soft finish - pleasant to drink. **85**

83 | DEETLEFS WINERY STONECROSS CHENIN BLANC CHARDONNAY

Dry 2012

AL - Floral nose with hints of green apple and pear; quite light and fresh palate, good purity, but tends to seem unexpressive. **83**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean and crisp with aromas reminiscent of citrus fruit, grapefruit and gooseberries. Rather restrained fruit on the palate with medium length. **83**

82 | BERGSIG ESTATE

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dry 2010

AL - Light colour; the nose offers smoked meat and sour red berries; a rather light structure, high acidity and balsamic notes, soft texture and medium length on the palate. **82**

MdM - Dark ruby red. Clean nose with discreet fruit; on the palate clean, but slightly lacks in concentration, although showing juicy fruit. **82**

WESTERN CAPE

92,5 | ALLÉE BLEUE

L'AMOUR TOUJOURS

Red 2008

AL - Dark, ruby red with slight evolution on the rim; elegant nose with a hint of complexity, sweet fruit, tobacco, dark cherry, blackcurrant, mint and well settled oak. A hint of smoke appears after some aeration. Rich and full with a tannic backbone; however, the tannins are ripe and add freshness, good clean fruit, juicy dark cherry and blackcurrant, well rounded mid palate and a long, warm aftertaste of fine spices, tobacco and sweet fruit - very good with excellent potential. **92**

MdM - Dark, purple red with slightly garnet red hue. Elegant and complex nose with blackcurrant, blackberries and mulberries, a touch of Cuban tobacco and cedar wood. A wine with elegantly integrated oak, tones of vanilla and mild spices, displaying a character between the New and the Old world. Well structured with ripe tannins and the typical freshness of great wines - showing very good potential. Elegant character in an almost Old world style. **93**

92 | RICKETY BRIDGE THE FOUNDATION STONE

Dry Red Blend 2010

AL - Dark and bright with alluring perfume of violets, dark berries, blackberry, smoke and sweet spices; the palate is full and structured with finely grained tannin, smoke, spices and a long, pure aftertaste, very appealing with a certain complexity and fine potential - very Rhône like. **92**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Densely structured but closed nose, good potential in a rather classic style. **92**

91 | ALLÉE BLEUE ISABEAU

White 2011

AL - Clear, light golden colour; the nose is rich, ambitious and intense with fine roasted notes of almond and hazelnut, elegantly integrated oak, rather ripe fruit, notes of pineapple, grape and peach; the palate is full bodied with a luscious texture, yet with a fine level of freshness and a roasted aftertaste. **91**

MdM - Bright yellow colour. Elegant but opulent nose with an almost modern, Burgundian touch. Aromas reminiscent of roasted hazelnuts, brioche, oak, spices, backed by ripe and opulent fruit. Aromas reminiscent of pineapple, Williams (Bartlett) pear and juicy peaches. Good structure with well integrated oak, toasted flavours and excellent length. On the palate well balanced with fine acidity, spicy character and almost luscious fruit. Perfectly balanced oak, convincing length and excellent finish. **91**

90 | DORNIER DONATUS WHITE

Lightly wooded Chenin blend 2011

AL - Generous fruitiness on the nose; quite ripe with notes of stone fruit - apricot, peach and yellow plum as well as slight hints of roasted nuts; seems like a hint of oak, but well integrated; the palate is on the broad and unctuous side, pleasing mouthfeel, plenty of fruit and an unctuous texture, well balanced with an underlying minerality, long finish and a hint of complexity - very good. **90**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Opulent nose with aromas reminiscent of meringue, candied orange and hazelnuts. On the palate brioche and ripe pear, elegant minerality and rather good expression. Very good oak management. **90**

90 | LA MOTTE SHIRAZ

Full Bodied, Dry Wine, Matured in Wood 2009

AL - Quite dark, ruby red colour; the nose is spicy and earthy with notes of dark berries, pepper and dry spices. Quite full palate, structured with firm backbone and notes of freshly ground pepper, fine length and overall balance - a slightly more restrained, spicy, Rhône style, very enchanting and most attractive. **90**

MdM - Deep, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Spicy aromas reminiscent of white pepper as well as aromas of ripe fruit and meaty notes. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and rather good length. **90**

89,5 | LA MOTTE

PIERNEF SHIRAZ VIOGNIER

Full Bodied, Dry Wine, Matured in Wood 2009

AL - Earthy and spicy nose, dry spices, red and dark berries; the palate has medium weight and high acidity, rather traditional in style with a charming spiciness and medium long finish. **87**

MdM - Deep, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Classic style with elegant floral notes, a touch of smoked bacon, minerality and ripe fruit. Opulent, but elegant on the palate with mild spices, white pepper and well balanced acidity, freshness and good length. **92**

84 | DEETLEFS ESTATE

STONECROSS MERLOT PINOTAGE

Dry 2010

AL - Rather light colour; the nose is traditional with some meaty and smoky notes, spicy with sweet red fruit; a medium bodied wine with a firm backbone, plenty of spice and medium to long finish. **84**

MdM - Purple red with violet hue. Ripe berries and a touch of petrol like aromas on the nose. On the palate medium weight and length. **84**

DURBANVILLE HILLS

88,5 | DURBANVILLE HILLS

RHINOFIELDS SHIRAZ 2009

AL - Fairly intense nose that offers rather dark fruit, smoke, vanilla and dark berries. Quite ample on the palate, fine extraction and integrated tannins, juicy dark berries, some meaty notes and a quite long finish - most attractively made. **89**

MdM - Deep, purple, red with violet hue and black centre. Elegant but expressive nose, distinct minerality and well balanced fruit. On the palate clean and well made with medium weight and length, slightly bitter in the finish. **88**

88 | DURBANVILLE HILLS

CHARDONNAY 2011

AL - Pure and delicate nose, mineral with hints of almond and citrus; splendidly restrained palate, reminds one of wine from Chablis, juicy lemon flavours and bright acidity, good length and a hint of minerality on the finish. **88**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean nose with aromas reminiscent of apple, pear and lemon, slightly mineral, green hazelnuts in the background. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and length. **88**

87,5 | DURBANVILLE HILLS

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2011

AL - Appealing nose, pure and youthful with notion of minerality and notes of ripe yellow fruit; attractive mouthfeel, rather full and unctuous with stone fruit, peach and ripe citrus, a hint of minerality and juicy acidity, fine purity, balance and persistence. **88**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. On the nose slightly smoky and mineral with grapefruit, peppers and slightly grassy notes. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and length, well structured. **87**

87 | DURBANVILLE HILLS

SHIRAZ 2010

AL - Dark, bright, purple colour and fine purity on the nose; intense dark fruit, violets, blackberry, dark cherry and chocolate; the palate is medium bodied with light extraction, juicy and fresh with vivid fruit - attractive drinkability. **86**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Sweet, berry fruit, a touch of vanilla, plums and mild spices. On the palate juicy character with good concentration, well integrated tannins and rather good length. **88**

86,5 | DURBANVILLE HILLS

PINOTAGE 2010

AL - Sweet and spicy nose with a hint of smoked meat and dark berries; attractive fruit on the palate, sweet berries, red and dark fruit notes, still on the young side with a tannic presence, fairly long with a smoky finish. **87**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean and juicy in the nose with a fruit driven character, discreet petrol like notes in the background. On the palate well balanced in a fruit driven style and ripe tannins. **86**

85,5 | DURBANVILLE HILLS

MERLOT ROSÉ 2012

AL - Very Sauvignon like nose with gooseberries, currants, herbs and grass; lemony palate, medium body and fairly good length. 86

MdM - Intense rosé with violet hue. Aromas of citrus fruit and cranberries. On the palate clean with well balanced expression and medium length. 85

81,5 | DURBANVILLE HILLS

RHINOFIELDS CHARDONNAY 2010

AL - Generous amounts of oak on the nose, slightly lactic with hints of vanilla, smoky with tropical fruit; the palate is still dominated by oak, slightly bitter at present, not really balanced due to heavy oak. 81

MdM - Dark, golden yellow. A wine dominated by oak, vanilla, roasted aromas and slightly smoky notes. On the palate opulent character; however, lacking fruit. Oak rather dominating on the palate too. 82

CEDERBERG

90 | CEDERBERG PRIVATE CELLAR

FIVE GENERATIONS CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dry 2009

AL - Dark purple; some roasted notes, coffee, dark fruit and blackcurrant on the nose; the palate is rather rich and concentrated, yet with fine freshness and herbal spiciness, well balanced extraction, just the right amount of tannin, good purity and length, attractive and potent. 90

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Ripe, almost balmy aromas on the nose, dark berries, hints of blackberries and mulberries. Mild spices in the background. On the palate clean and well balanced with rather good length. 90

87,5 | CEDERBERG PRIVATE CELLAR

SHIRAZ

Dry 2009

AL - Youthful nose with primary fruit notes, crushed berries, mild spices and a hint of smoke; medium to full palate, soft texture and juicy fruit, vibrant freshness and a spicy finish. 87

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Opulent nose with intense fruit, mild spices and roasted aromas. On the palate clean and well balanced with medium weight and length. 88

87 | CEDERBERG PRIVATE CELLAR

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dry 2009

AL - Young and pure fruit, dark berries, spices, leather some smoky/meaty Pinotage like notes; the palate has medium to high concentration, rather soft tannin, but a high level of acidity, freshly crushed red and dark berries, green herbs, medium to long finish - attractive, juicy and drinkable. 87

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean fruit, discreet spiciness and a touch of green peppers. On the palate well structured with medium length and discreet fruit. 87

87 | CEDERBERG PRIVATE CELLAR

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Dry 2011

AL - Pure and aromatic with lemon peel, pear and some green notes; light to medium bodied, attractively balanced in a fresh, bone dry, rather Loire style with lemon zest and green apple, quite long finish. 87

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Elegant fruit reminiscent of gooseberries, lemon and grapefruit. On the palate well balanced with crisp acidity and well structured, medium length. 87

85,5 | CEDERBERG PRIVATE CELLAR

BUKETTRAUBE

Semi-sweet 2011

AL - Sweet and grapey nose, hints of fresh grapes, honey and yellow fruit; the palate is off dry and offers an attractive level of freshness, rather light structure, but good length. 85

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Discreet fruit, reminiscent of gooseberries, physalis (Cape Gooseberry), pineapple and citrus fruit. On the palate fine sweetness with a rather soft finish. 86

81,5 | CEDERBERG PRIVATE CELLAR

CHENIN BLANC

Dry 2011

AL - A rather green and herbal nose with notes of grass and citrus; the palate is very light with plenty of acidity, a hint of bitterness and something slightly burnt on the finish. 82

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Clean nose with crisp fruit, grapefruit, kiwi and gooseberries in the background. On the palate clean with harsh acidity, medium weight and length. A touch of bitterness in the finish. 81

OTHER REGIONS & WARDS

93 | GLENELLY ESTATE

LADY MAY

2009 SIMONSBURG

AL - Lightly smoky and earthy nose with notes of blackcurrant, wild berries and fine spices; the palate is very concentrated; however, with fine balance and perfectly tuned tannins, layers of dark, inky fruit, bright freshness and a very long, lingering aftertaste. Very Bordeaux like, stylish of a high level of quality - should develop very well. 93

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Elegant, slightly closed nose, almost classic Cabernet aromatic profile, although quite concentrated. On the palate well structured with freshness and discreet fruit. Minerality and length in the finish. 93

91,5 | CREATION

SYRAH

Dry Red 2010 HEMEL-EN-AARDE RIDGE

AL - Dark colour and a very intense nose of ripe dark berries, blackberry, violets and meat; very alluring palate, full and structured with finely grained tannin, layers of dark fruit, plenty of fine spices, vanilla, clove, smoke and meat, very juicy and unctuous finish - a hint of complexity and great persistence. Very appealing, attractive wine and highly potent too. 93

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Sweet fruit on the nose, mild spices and toasted aromas, elegant floral tones in the background. On the palate juicy with ripe fruit, plums, cherries and blackberries, vanilla in the background and firm tannins, rather good length. 90

91,5 | RICKETY BRIDGE

SHIRAZ

Dry Shiraz 2009 COASTAL REGION

AL - Dark colour; still quite young and closed nose that offers dark berries, dry spices and tobacco; the palate is charmingly balanced with well rounded texture, appealing level of freshness, dark berries, meat, fine spices and long finish - most attractive and well crafted Rhône style. 91

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Rather restrained fruit, minerality, meaty and slightly smoky and Rhône style. On the palate well balanced and elegant with good structure and length. 92

91,5 | SARONSBURG

SHIRAZ

Dry Red 2010 TULBAGH

AL - Floral and dark fruity nose of blackberry, violets, liquorice and sweet spices. The palate is medium to full with rich fruit, but rather soft extraction and mild tannin, meaty and smoky, quite Rhône like, fine persistence and attractive, juicy fruit on the aftertaste. Appealing drinkability. 92

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Rhône style in character with aromas of violets and blackcurrant, smoked bacon and meaty tones. On the palate almost sweet fruit, oak influence, yet well balanced with good length. 91

91,5 | WATERKLOOF

CIRCLE OF LIFE RED

Dry Red Blend 2009 SCHAPENBERG

AL - Bright, dark, purple core; modern nose with vanilla scented new oak, dark plum, blackberry and leather; the palate has some smoky and meaty notes à la Pinotage, most attractive and mouth filling with very appealing dark fruit, polished tannin and a really good length; young and unresolved as yet, but should develop very well - a truly potent wine. 91

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Clean and concentrated nose with aromas reminiscent of plums and black cherries, mulberries and blackberries, mild spices, vanilla and dark chocolate. On the palate clean and well balanced with well integrated tannins, good weight and length. 92

91 | GLENELLY ESTATE

GRAND VIN

2008 SIMONSBURG

AL - Quite dark and youthful colour; the nose is intense and offers dark plum, blackcurrant, mint, spices, leather and smoke. The palate has a high level of concentration and weight, alluring extraction without hard edges, layers of dark fruit, some notes of black pepper and mint, very good length - a really appealing wine with splendid potential. 92

MdM - Deep, purple, red with violet hue and almost black centre. Nose with meaty character, leather, tobacco and mild spices, ripe plums and blackcurrant. On the palate a touch of red peppers, mild spices and well structured, rather good length. 90

90,5 | BLAAUWKLIIPPEN AGRICULTURAL

ESTATES STELLENBOSCH

BLAAUWKLIIPPEN RESERVE SHIRAZ

Classic Wood matured 2009 STELLENBOSCH BERG

AL - Opaque colour; the nose is Port like and offers hints of very ripe fruit, pepper, prunes and dried figs. The palate is immensely concentrated and highly extracted without being dry, very massive but, at this stage, not yet expressing the fullness of nuance - should probably age well and develop complexity and aromatics. Drink from 2014. 90

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Opulent, almost Port style nose, aromas of dried prunes and figs, dark chocolate and vanilla. On the palate massive tannins; however, ripe, opulent taste and rather good length. Interesting potential for future development, but requires patience. 91

90,5 | DE TOREN PRIVATE CELLAR

DE TOREN Z

Bordeaux Blend 2009 POLKADRAAI

AL - A more modern example with dark purple colour; new oak and dark fruitiness of blackberry, cherry and blackcurrant. Very concentrated with high, but balanced extraction, there is good juiciness and freshness to back up the dark fruit, fine tannins that contribute to the length, gently spicy and complex aftertaste - very fine material. 90

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue, dense colour. In the nose fresh fruit, blackberries, plums and cherries, mild spices and a touch of minerality. On the palate fresh, elegant fruit, well balanced character and well integrated tannins. Good length and depth. 91

90 | ALLÉE BLEUE

SHIRAZ

Red 2010 FRANSCHHOEK

AL - Youthful, dark purple and high viscosity; intense, young and fruity with some hints of oak and vanilla, there is a spiciness of pepper and roasted herbs followed by dark cherry, plum and blackberry; the palate is rather full, the fruit is ripe and sweet even though the wine is dry, hints of blackberry and apricot, appealing spiciness of pepper and smoked herbs, well integrated oak and a long, generous finish. 89

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Convincing nose with youthful fruit reminiscent of blackberries, black cherries and plums, aromas of white pepper and roasted sweet red peppers as well vanilla and mild spices. On the palate full bodied with ripe fruit and a touch of sweetness, slightly smoky with dark berries and mild spices. Oak well balanced - a wine with good length and structure. 91

90 | GLENELLY ESTATE

GLASS COLLECTION CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2010 SIMONSBURG

AL - Bright dark colour; the nose offers pure dark fruit, blackcurrant, mint, tar and smoke; the palate is still slightly young with a rigid backbone; however, well balanced without hard edges, most attractive spiciness on the finish. 90

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Initially slightly pyrotechnical aromas, elegant fruit in the background. Needs some time to open up. Allow potential to develop. 90

90 | LOMOND

ESTATE SYRAH

Dry 2008 CAPE AGULHAS

AL - Medium deep, ruby colour; the nose is generous and spicy with white pepper, clove, vanilla, a meaty touch and freshly crushed berries. The palate is medium to full with plenty of character, alluringly spicy and peppery with juicy fruit, well rounded texture and good length - Rhône like and charming with great drinkability. 90

MdM - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue. Slightly balmy aromas, dried prunes, toasted oak, roasted chestnuts and sweet berries in the background. On the palate well balanced with good structure and length. 90

89,5 | BOUCHARD

FINLAYSON

SANS BARRIQUE

CHARDONNAY

2011 WALKER BAY

AL - More restrained and Chablis like with almond, citrus and mineral notes; very appealing, bright fruit on the palate, great freshness, a notion of minerality and very fine length; elegant and unoaked style. 89

MdM - Bright, yellow with golden hue. Elegant with restrained fruit and crisp character. On the palate well structured with good weight and well composed, medium length. Juicy and crisp style. 90

89,5 | LOMOND

CONEBUSH SINGLE

VINEYARD SYRAH

Dry 2008 CAPE AGULHAS

AL - Dark colour; some new oak, spices and dark berries; the palate is quite full with a backbone of tannin and spice, a hint of smokiness and dark fruit on the finish. Balanced, charming and spicy. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Smoky nose, slightly dusty, but also showing ripe, fruit aromas. On the palate almost sweet tannins, coffee and berry fruit, juicy and well balanced tannins with good length. 91

89,5 | RAKA

QUINARY

Dry 2007 KLEIN RIVIER

AL - More modern style; dark colour and sweet intense nose - quite Bordeaux like, blackcurrant, dark cherry, leather with a slight touch of mint; the palate is full and offers juicy fruit, crushed berries, engaging and charming structure without hard edges, soft and silky tannin, layers of sweet fruit, fine length and balance - already offers tempting drinkability, yet possesses the potential to develop. 89

MdM - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue. Balmy aromas reminiscent of plums and black cherries, mild spices and a touch of white pepper. On the palate well balanced with fresh character with rather good length. 90

89,5 | SARONSBURG

PROVENANCE ROOI

Dry Red 2010

COASTAL REGION

AL - Youthful and dense purple colour; new oak, vanilla, sweet dark fruit, blackberry, blackcurrant and plum; the wine has a high level of concentration and extraction, yet without hard edges, excellent dark fruit and a long finish - at present, still slightly unresolved, but should be allowed to benefit from at least 2 more years in the cellar. 89

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. In the first moments quite closed, opening up well with some oxygen. Ripe mulberries and blackberries, blackcurrant in the background. On the palate well balanced, youthful character, well structured with medium length. **90**

89,5 | SARONSBERG FULL CIRCLE

Dry Red 2009 TULBAGH

AL - Sweet and intense nose; ambitious with roasted new oak, dark berries, floral notes, violet and spices; the palate is juicy and attractive with good weight, fine tannin and unctuous texture, it delivers dark berries, pepper, spice and a sweet aftertaste. Fine structure and length. **90**

MdM - Deep, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Clean nose with a typical meaty touch. Ripe fruit and mild spices. On the palate medium weight and length with a juicy finish. **89**

89,5 | STARK-CONDÉ WINES

THREE PINES CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dry wooded 2007 JONKERSHOEK VALLEY

AL - Very dark ruby/purple; the nose offers violets, dark berries, herbs and some balsamic notes. The palate is rich and dense, dark purple, fruit flavour, blackberry and violets, some spicy notes; still rather extracted and on the young side, but with charming purity of fruit, freshness and length - should be kept for at least 2 more years. **89**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with floral tones with a touch of blackcurrant. On the palate floral notes as well fruit tones, medium weight and rather good length. **90**

89 | AMANI AMANI I AM I

Modified Bordeaux 2008 COASTAL REGION

AL - Dark, ruby core, lighter on the rim; the nose is sweet and expressive, Bordeaux like nuances with blackcurrant, dark plum, smoky aromas, coffee and some green herbs that add freshness to the blend; medium to full bodied, dense fruitiness, plum and currant notes with some spicy elements of coffee and herbs, good length; already polished with good drinkability and a long, juicy finish. **89**

MdM - Purple red with violet hue. Elegant nose with almost petroleum character; however, intense fruit and mild spices. On the palate well structured, balmy character, aromas of black cherries and a touch of truffles. Well made, fine presence, attractively constituted with medium length. **89**

89 | BOUCHARD FINLAYSON MISSIONVALE CHARDONNAY

2010 WALKER BAY

AL - Still young with wood dominating the nose, vanilla, hint of smoke and stone fruity notes; medium weight and high, radiant freshness on the palate, tropical fruit notes, a round and creamy texture, quite good length and pleasant fruit; slightly marked by oak right now, but should develop well. **88**

MdM - Bright, yellow with golden hue. Elegant fragrance on the nose reminiscent of brioche, vanilla and ripe pears, pineapple and citrus fruit. On the palate crisp acidity, well balanced with good length. **90**

89 | CREATION

CREATION SYRAH GRENACHE

Dry Red 2010 HEMEL-EN-AARDE RIDGE

AL - The wine appears young with primary fruit, crushed berries and mild spices; the palate is medium bodied with juicy fruit, vivid freshness and spicy finish - attractive and drinkable. **89**

MdM - Deep, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Mild spices and juicy fruit, elegant oak; on the palate well balanced with good structure and almost floral notes in the finish. Well balanced, medium weight and good medium length. **89**

89 | DRUK-MY-NIET T3

Dry red 2009 PAARL/WELLINGTON

AL - Ambitious nose with plenty of oak that currently dominates, some dark fruit, pepper and smoke. Quite ample palate, plenty of dark fruit, rather soft extraction, juicy, berry fruit, sweet spices and a good length - fairly attractive, just slightly too marked by the oak at present. **88**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Aromas reminiscent of vanilla, caramel and roasted aromas and well balanced fruit. On the palate a touch of sweetness, tannins well structured, medium weight, but rather good length. **90**

88,5 | ALLÉE BLEUE PINOTAGE

Red 2009 PIEKENIERSKLOOF

AL - Very intense, dark, almost opaque colour; the nose is intense with plenty of spice, cedar wood, mint, tar, smoked herbs, coffee and dark berries; medium to full palate, slightly on the wild/spicy/rustic side with roasted coffee bean, wild herbs, pepper, smoked meat and dark berries - still with a tannic presence. Good length, still relatively restrained on the finish - would benefit from another year of ageing. **87**

MdM - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Opulent Pinotage style with intense dark berry fruit, blackberries, elderberries, but also black cherries and a hint of wild berry jam. In the background a discreet petrol note, mild spices, a hint of oak, black chocolate and mocha. On the palate opulent and spicy with peppery notes, vanilla and dark berries. Good tannin structure and length promise a positive evolution. A Pinotage with plenty of typicity and character. Pinotage, the variety one loves or hates, is expressed in an excellent manner in this wine. **91**

88,5 | DE WETSHOF ESTATE LESCA CHARDONNAY

2010 ROBERTSON

AL - The fruit seems rather tropical on the nose with hints of vanilla, nuts and discreet wood; the palate has a fine combination of ripeness and freshness with melon, butter and stone fruit, good length and overall balance. **89**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Slightly closed character, but opens up slowly with oxygen; rather restrained fruit. On the palate clean and well balanced, crisp acidity, medium weight and well structured, medium length. **88**

88 | CLOOF

RUBY DARLING

Dry 2011 DARLING

AL - Intense and perfumed with primary fruit, red and dark berries, floral notes, sweet spices and a pleasing palate with soft texture and layers of juicy fruit, well balanced with a medium to long, sweet finish. **90**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Fresh fruit reminiscent of blackcurrant and raspberries, in the background mild spices. On the palate fruit driven with medium weight and length. **86**

88 | CREATION CHARDONNAY

Dry White 2011 HEMEL-EN-AARDE RIDGE

AL - Quite oaky nose, layers of citrus and nuts; the palate has medium weight with good freshness and lemony notes; the wood is still slightly on top, but otherwise fine - should be allowed some more time in the cellar to show off its rather restrained, "cool" style. **88**

MdM - Intense, golden yellow. Opulent nose with slightly smoky character, roasted aromas, vanilla and oak spices. Ripe, yellow stone fruit in the background as well as pineapple. On the palate well balanced, smoothly integrated oak, discreet fruit and rather good length. Almost reminiscent of the modern Burgundian style. **88**

87,5 | ALLÉE BLEUE SAUVIGNON BLANC

White 2012 WALKER BAY

AL - Pale, bright and clear, floral and aromatic nose revealing white flower, lime, ginger, lemon zest and yellow fruit notes; youthful bite and freshness, rather full with good purity of fruit - still rather viscous with fresh acidity and herbal spiciness on the finish, medium to long with warm aftertaste. **87**

MdM - Pale, yellow colour with green hue. Elegant and crisp fruit with aromas reminiscent of grapefruit, physalis (Cape gooseberry), citrus fruit and a hint of minerality. On the palate aromatic and youthful, well structured, repeating the aromas already displayed on the nose. Elegant with crisp acidity and rather good length. Great drinking pleasure. **88**

87,5 | BOUCHARD FINLAYSON SAUVIGNON BLANC

2011 WALKER BAY

AL - Quite intense and ripe nose, hints of pineapple and apricot underlined by some mineral notes - nothing green, more tropical in style; the palate is round and unctuous, mouth filling with a rounded acidity and fine mineral aftertaste. **87**

MdM - Bright yellow. A ripe and opulent style with ethereal character, tropical fruit and minerality. On the palate well balanced with creamy texture, crisp acidity and rather good length. **88**

87,5 | CLOOF

LYNCHPIN

Dry 2006 DARLING

AL - The nose offers some earthy and smoky aromas with notes of dark plum, coffee and herbs; slightly more development with some balsamic notes; the palate shows good fullness and is still slightly tight with a massive tannic structure, dark fruit and high freshness, good length; yet remaining somewhat tannic and robust on the finish; should soften from further bottle aging. **87**

MdM - Purple red with garnet red hue. Ripe nose with balmy aromas, vanilla, mild spices and cedar wood. Slightly meaty with some tones of dried fruit. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and rather good length. Tannins quite present and a touch dry on the finish. **88**

87,5 | DE WETSHOF ESTATE

THE SITE CHARDONNAY

2009 ROBERTSON

AL - Fairly roasted with light smokiness, hints of nuts and candied fruit, good fruit and bright freshness; however, the oak is rather protruding and adds a dry touch on the finish. **85**

MdM - Bright, yellow with slightly golden hue. Classic character with aromas reminiscent of ripe apple, juicy pear, brioche and vanilla. On the palate well balanced with crisp acidity and an almost creamy texture. A convincing wine with strong, but well integrated oak and good length. **90**

87 | CLOOF

CAB CULT CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dry 2009 DARLING

AL - Dark, ruby, red colour; quite sweet nose of red and dark berries with a touch of confiture (jam) and floral notes; the palate is sweet, rounded and soft, verging on being jammy but soft, supple and drinkable with a medium to long finish. **86**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Opulent nose with distinct, almost jammy fruit, mineral tones and ripe character. On the palate well balanced with ripe tannins and good fruit. Good length. **88**

87 | RAKA

BIOGRAPHY SHIRAZ

Dry 2009 KLEIN RIVIER

AL - Medium deep, ruby red colour; spicy nose with freshly crushed berries, plum and a hint of smoke; the palate is medium bodied with red and dark fruit, spices and medium high tannin, quite good length with a generous spiciness. **87**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Minerality, iodine tones, ripe fruit and toasted oak. On the palate opulent with medium weight and length. **87**

86,5 | STARK-CONDÉ WINES

THREE PINES SYRAH

Dry wooded 2007

JONKERSHOEK VALLEY

AL - Very spicy nose, plenty of dry spices, cardamom, clove and hints of freshly crushed berries; medium bodied and spicy style, quite charming in a traditional style, medium length. **86**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Concentrated character, intense aromas, rather on the smoky/minerally side than on the fruit. On the palate well balanced tannins with medium weight and length, dryish finish. **87**

86 | ALLESVERLOREN SHIRAZ

Dry 2010 SWARTLAND

AL - The wine appears young with primary fruit, crushed berries and mild spices; the palate is medium bodied with juicy fruit, vivid freshness and spicy finish - attractive and drinkable. **86**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Quite modern, fruit driven style with well integrated oak. Aromas reminiscent of dark berries and plums, vanilla, mild spices and a slightly smoky touch. On the palate well expressed harmony with juicy character, well balanced tannins and medium length. **86**

86 | LOMOND

PINCUSHION SINGLE VINEYARD SAUVIGNON

BLANC

Dry 2011 CAPE AGULHAS

AL - A rather "green" nose with notes of kiwi and gooseberries with some stony notes; firm and restrained palate, good purity and freshness with very crisp finish. **86**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Slightly pyrotechnical notes, discreet fruit with aromas reminiscent of gooseberries, kiwi and citrus fruit. On the palate good mouthfeel, medium weight and length. **86**

85,5 | DE WETSHOF ESTATE

BATELEUR

Dry 2009 ROBERTSON

AL - Some oak, citrus and a hint of asparagus on nose; the palate shows some bitterness and the oak seems slightly dominating and adds a dry touch, but good freshness and fruit; however, slightly woody on the finish. **84**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue, still youthful robe. On the nose elegant aromas reminiscent of vanilla and caramel, candied pear and fresh hazelnuts. On the palate well balanced with rather good length, but slightly dryish in the finish. **87**

85 | CLOOF

DAISY DARLING

Dry 2012 DARLING

AL - The nose is rather restrained with some mineral notes and hints of sweet citrus; firm and bone dry palate, a certain herbal spiciness on the aftertaste. **85**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Ripe aromas of honey and pear with slightly floral tones in the background. On the palate well balanced with well structured, medium length. **85**

85 | DROSTDY HOF ORGANICALLY GROWN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2011 TULBAGH

AL - Bright, purple colour; the nose is young and fruit driven, freshly crushed berries, cherry and plum. The palate is young, medium to full, still with youthful acidity and rigid tannins, medium to long - needs another 1-2 years to open up. **85**

MdM - Dark purple red with violet hue. Clean fruit, slightly spicy and a touch of red peppers in the background. On the palate clean, but slightly harsh tannins - needs some time to mature. **85**

83,5 | TUKULU PINOTAGE

Dry 2009 Darling

AL - Earthy and smoky nose, lighter fruit and red berries; the palate has medium weight, a quite tannic backbone and high acidity, some balsamic notes and medium length. **83**

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Aromatic nose with notes of ripe blackberries, mulberries and a touch of blackcurrant. On the palate juicy with well integrated tannins and medium length. **84**

82,5 | BOUCHARD FINLAYSON

GALPIN PEAK PINOT NOIR

2010 WALKER BAY

AL - Medium deep, ruby red; a slightly more assertive example with new oak, riper dark fruit notes, cherry and spices; the palate is quite full and rounded with red and dark berries, high acidity, a hint of chocolate, medium length; still not in perfect balance, there is a lot of dark, sweet fruit, but also very high acidity on the finish. **82**

MdM - Dark, purple red with almost violet hue. Intense aromas, rather influenced by oak than by varietal character, smoky, ripe fruit. On the palate medium weight and length with fine tannins. **83**

82,5 | RAKA

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Dry 2011 KLEIN RIVIER

AL - A slightly neutral nose with green apple and citrus; the palate is restrained and firm with light fruit and high acidity, a hint of bitterness on the finish - seem more like a wine coming from the direction of Loire - rather unexpressive at the moment. **82**

MdM - Bright, yellow with green hue. Discreet fruit in the nose and on the palate medium weight and length. **83**

100% BLIND

by *MARKUS DEL MONEGO & ANDREAS LARSSON*

TWO BEST SOMMELIERS OF THE WORLD TASTE BLIND

INTERVIEW WITH MARKUS DEL MONEGO AND ANDREAS LARSSON

TASTED - According to which criteria did you rate the wines and which are the determining points of your evaluations?

Markus del Monego - We tasted using the international 100 points system, which is internationally well known and accepted.

Andreas Larsson - According to the international 100 point scale. I judge the wine for its overall quality that is to say purity, aromatics, structure, length, complexity, concentration, typicality, potential and longevity, but also its drinkability, something that I feel is very important.

TASTED - What are the features that really distinguish a correct from a good and a good from an excellent wine?

MdM - There are three aspects: first of all, the typicality of the colour for each grape variety, region and vintage. Secondly, the aroma profile. The more complex a wine is, the higher is the rating. Last, but not least, the taste. Mouthfeel and length are as important as balance. And in the end, the better wines show more typicality of terroir/origin than simpler wines.

AL - Correct wines are clean and fruity with a touch of character. A good wine must have more character, concentration and structure. A great wine should have more structure, character - it needs to display personality, to have a beginning, middle, and an end; often a great wine makes you say - wow!

TASTED - Could you please describe the conditions under which the wines have been blind tasted?

MdM - We have tasted in our tasting laboratory [caveCo, Essen, Germany]. Single boxes for the tasters guarantee a quiet tasting atmosphere without any influence from a third party. The wines have been served in glasses, so even the shape of the bottle was hidden, which guarantees a neutral tasting. In addition, the interior climatic condition of the laboratory is controlled (temperature, humidity etc.). These conditions follow the DIN 17025 for blind tastings, therefore a high reproducibility of the results is provided.

AL - Markus has said it all.

TASTED - What influence do these conditions have on the reproducibility of the tasting conditions?

MdM - As the conditions are the same for every tasting, the reproducibility of the tasting results is made much more probable and therefore, more relevant. My company, **caveCo**, is accredited for organoleptic analysis; therefore we need these neutral conditions.

AL - It is a good way of tasting under completely blind conditions and not being influenced by the surroundings.

TASTED - What distinguishes a blind tasting under ideal conditions from a tasting carried out, for instance, directly at a winery?

MdM - Although good tasters can be quite objective, even when knowing the name of a wine, there is a certain influence which will work subconsciously. Therefore an attractive label, a famous name or a well known vintner can influence the result. Blind tastings are the only way to have a really neutral tasting.

AL - It is very difficult to judge a wine if you taste it at a "great" winery, one will inevitably be biased by the atmosphere.

TASTED - Do you believe that even professional tasters can be influenced by things like the environment, a particularly friendly and luxurious welcome at a wine estate and if yes in which way? Or at the contrary, by specifically nasty and poor tasting conditions?

MdM - Tasting is a subjective art and there is the permanent battle of good tasters to be as objective as possible. I think that objectivity can be reached up to 80/85%, but there is always a hint of subjectivity remaining. The more a taster is influenced, the higher the level of subjectivity can be.

AL - Yes, as I just said. In addition, one is often confronted with tasting rooms that are too cold or too hot. I hate tasting with the air condition on as it is dehydrating, I hate tasting from bad wine glasses, and there are a few other things I don't like,.... so yes there are many ways that can affect one's tasting. ■