

This Week in Reviews



VINEYARD BRANDS

Full color PDFs available at www.vineyardbrands.com

CON211 Cono Sur Sustainable Agriculture Sauvignon Blanc 2008 Wine Enthusiast 88 points

FWW209 Fairview Various International Wine Cellar

SPR111 Spice Route Various International Wine Cellar

Stephen Tanzer's March/April 2009

International Wine Cellar
the consumer's passport to fine wine

CHARLES BACK
FAIRVIEW
SINCE 1693

2007 Pinotage/Viognier - Coastal Region
A 96/4 blend, co-fermented. Medium red-ruby. Musky red fruits, spices and leather on the nose, lifted by a whiff of flowers. Sweet and juicy on entry, then creamy in the middle, with berry and pepper flavors in a rather seamless modern style. Finishes with ripe, sweet, toothdusting tannins and resounding berry flavors. **89**

2006 Cyril Back Shiraz - Paarl
Deep, bright ruby-red. Medicinal black plum, licorice, bitter chocolate and menthol on the nose, plus a reasonably light touch-especially for a wine that seems higher in alcohol than the 14.5% listed on the label. There's very good breadth to the creamy flavors of black plum, chocolate and flowers. Finishes with building tannins and strong oakiness. **89**

2007 Primo Pinotage - Coastal Region
Bright, deep ruby-red. Deep aromas of dark berries, coffee and smoky oak. Rich, broad, sweet and powerful, with very ripe, deep recurrent and chocolatey oak flavors supported by serious dusty tannins. This mouthfilling wine finishes long and subtle. A splendid example of the variety, with real depth. **91**

2005 The Beacon Shiraz - Paarl
Deep red-ruby. Very ripe aromas of plum, meat, pepper, spices and tobacco, plus a suggestion of dried fruits. Broad, savory, very ripe and very dry, with a slightly aggressive medicinal quality to its plum, menthol, exotic spice and roasted herb flavors. Finishes long, with a lingering menthol perfume. Lay this one down. **90(+?)**

2007 Shiraz - Coastal Region
Bright red-ruby. Supertripe berries, exotic flowers, dark chocolate and woodsmoke on the nose; reminiscent of the northern Rhone. Sweet, lush and pliant in an Old World way, with savory flavors of very ripe dark fruits, dried flowers and smoke. Full but without any excess weight. Finishes with smooth tannins and sneaky length. **89**

2006 Eenzaamheid Shiraz - Paarl
(this is Fairview's new name for the wine formerly called Solitude) Red-ruby. Complex nose offers briary dark berries, graphite, smoked meat, dried herbs and chocolatey oak. Lush and creamy-sweet in the mouth, with flavors similar to the aromas. Broad and very ripe but not at all heavy, with an intriguing element of dried herbs. Finishes with very suave tannins and hints of exotic fruits. A classy shiraz that should reward aging. **90**

Stephen Tanzer's March/April 2009

International Wine Cellar
the consumer's passport to fine wine

Spice Route

2007 Pinotage - Swartland
Bright, dark red-ruby. Spicy berries, smoked meat, sweet vanilla oak and a whiff of cinders on the nose. Very ripe but bright, with supple berry and smoke flavors complemented by chocolate and spice from the oak. Sexy and pliant but with solid structural support. Offers a nice compromise between modern and traditional. Finishes with smooth, toothcoating tannins and no hardness. **89**

2005 Flagship Syrah - Swartland
Deep, slightly murky red. Wild aromas of plum, chocolate, roasted herbs, game and smoky, spicy oak. Broad and full in the mouth, with a suave texture and impressive volume to the flavors of black plum and smoked meat. Boasts a seamless mouth feel and finishes with sweet tannins. But a bit less broad than the Malabar in spite of its 15% alcohol. **90**

2004 Malabar - Swartland
Medium red-ruby. Captivating aromas of strawberry, currant, coffee, smoked meat, pepper, woodsmoke and chocolate. Lush, full and sweet, with a noble rusticity to the deep, complex flavors of currant, chocolate, roasted herbs and smoked meat. Very Old World and savory, with fruit in the background. Finishes with fine tannins and a light touch, carrying its 15% alcohol gracefully. **91**

2007 Chakalaka - Swartland
(shiraz, mourvedre and carignan) Bright red-ruby. Aromatic nose combines blackberry, violet, dark chocolate, mint and dried herbs. Very ripe but spicy and juicy, with hints of roasted berries and game supported by a firm spine of acidity. I'd drink this moderately deep wine in the next year or two. **87**



Cono Sur
SAUVIGNON BLANC
2008 Sustainable Agriculture

"A little sweet and easy up front, with aromas of... tropical fruits. The palate is round, lightly spritzy and endowed with flavors of apple, lime and kiwi. Long and quite fresh on the finish, with a hint of lasting sweetness."

88
points

Imported by Vineyard Brands | Vineyard Brands Selections | www.vineyardbrands.com CON211