

The Winery of Good Hope



Location: Somerset West ■ Map: Helderberg ■ WO: Stellenbosch/Swartland/Western Cape/Elgin/Stellenbosch ■ Est/1stB 1998 ■ Tasting & sales Mon-Fri 9-5 by appt ■ Closed all pub hols ■ Owner(s) Alex Dale, Andrew Openshaw, Yalumba, Edouard Labeye, Cliff Roberson, Ben Radford, Heather Whitman ■ Cellarmaster(s) Edouard Labeye (1998) ■ Winemaker(s) Jacques de Klerk (Oct 2009), with Tubby May (2002) ■ Viticulturist(s) Edouard Labeye & Jacques de Klerk ■ ±100ha (cab, merlot, pinot, shiraz, chard, chenin, viog) ■ 500t/40,000cs own label 50% red 50% white ■ Brands for clients: Pick's Pick ■ BEE, IPW, WIETA ■ Postnet Suite 124 Private Bag X15 Somerset West 7129 ■ thewineryofgoodhope@thewineryofgoodhope.co.za ■ www.thewineryofgoodhope.com ■ S 34° 0' 57.5" E 018° 49' 2.6" ■ T +27 (0)21-855-5528 ■ F +27 (0)21-855-5529

For MD Alex Dale, a natural approach to wine will inevitably feature more strongly as he steers the winery into the future. 'I'm intent on making wines naturally, with balance, freshness and subtlety. I want clear water between Good Hope and brash, overtly commercial styles that are currently popular.' Three major accreditations and audits in the past year reflect Alex's philosophy of keeping ethics, environment and community firmly in his sights. The Land of Hope Trust underwrites the winery's workers and their dependents' educational aspirations, while water waste management and environmental impact programmes enhance the concern's green credentials. Despite economic recession, further plantings and cellar and equipment upgrading continue.

Radford Dale range

★★★★★ **Merlot** ✓ Eucalyptus edge to rich & ripe but restrained **09**. Supple, bright fruit flavoured core revealed within beautifully integrated, spicy oak. Touch minerality enhances firmly savoury, dense finish.

★★★★★ **Freedom Pinot Noir** Alluring, expressive, complex **10** from Elgin grapes, with finesse, elegance & earthiness typical of this cooler area. Fruit, oak in poised balance, finishes with mineral freshness.

★★★★★ **Shiraz** ✓ Astonishingly aromatic & flavoursome **09** has lovely fruit & spice definition. Skilfully constructed, with sumptuous ripeness checked by savoury grip of seamless oaking. Satisfyingly complex.

★★★★★ **Gravity** Dense, suave textured **08** blend shiraz (for spice), merlot (flesh) & cab (structure) is usual polished, balanced self. Meticulously vinified using gravity-assisted techniques for soft, plush flavours.

★★★★★ **Shiraz-Merlot** Spicy appeal in **09** (★★★★) lacks freshness & focus of **08**. Very ripe, soft red fruit a little intimidated by firm tannins.

★★★★★ **Chardonnay** Classic-styled **10** lighter than previous but still with lovely weight & richness. Layers of fresh flavour supported by stylish oaking & backbone of savoury acidity & stony minerality.

★★★★★ **Renaissance Chenin Blanc** **NEW** **10** actually 2nd bottling, after experimental **09** from old chenin vineyards. Intense, generously textured, complex with a fresh citrus twist & superbly integrated oak. Long finish delivers lemon pithiness & minerality. Top wine of the 4 chenin bottlings across ranges.

★★★★★ **Viognier** Overtly smoky, spicy aromas on **10** (★★★★), fermented dry in barrel. Oak influence more dominant than **09**, & perhaps too much for fruit, though fine acidity carries the flinty finish.

★★★★★ **Vine Dried Viognier** Bronze tinged **10** shows exceedingly complex aromas, seems sweeter, more unctuous than declared 130 grams sugar (half that of previous vintage). But peachy viognier sweetness checked by sufficient savoury acidity.

Shiraz-Viognier In abeyance.

Land of Hope range

★★★★★ **Cabernet Sauvignon** Structured, youthful **09** needs time to reveal oak-woven layers. From single vineyard in elegant style with tannin & acidity tightly wound around dense, plush & expressive fruit core.

★★★★★ **Chenin Blanc** Delicious, charming, just-dry **10**, generously textured from oaking & lees contact. Vibrant, full flavours from single vineyard bushvines. Seductive fruit flavours lighter than **09**'s (★★★★★).

Black Rock range

★★★★★ **Red Blend** Herbs & bush-scrub spiciness in individual & complex **08** (★★★★) shiraz-led blend with carignan, grenache & mourvèdre. Less concentrated than **07** but compelling & harmonious.

★★★★★ **White Blend** Confident, fragrant chenin-based **09** with chardonnay, clairette, viognier; spicily sweet & rich stonefruits supported by seamless oaking & balanced by pithiness. These WO Swartland.

Vinum range

★★★★ **Cabernet Sauvignon** ✓ 10 Perfumed 10 abundant pure fruit currently masked by tight, spicy oak tannins, unusual for this accessible range. No less tasty & plush, with appealing minerality carrying finish.

★★★★ **Chenin Blanc** ✓ 10 Lovely 10 exhibits charm & confidence, though lacks depth of 09 (★★★★★). Oak & lees contact broadens stone fruit flavours, while acidity focuses finish, ensuring flawless balance.

The Winery of Good Hope range

Unoaked Chardonnay ☺ 11 ★★★ Charming, easy drinking but classy & perkily fresh 11. Lees contact adds richness & breadth. WP W Cape, as for Pinot Noir below.

Pinot Noir Reserve 10 ★★★★★ 10 juicy & elegant, with bright cherry fruit & touch of earthiness. Tannins not as integrated as 09 (★★★★); but very drinkable. **Bush Vine Pinotage** 10 ★★★★★ Overt mocha & spiciness in 10, from older, low yielding vines. Usual succulent fruitiness with attractively savoury finish. **Mountainside Shiraz** ✓ 10 ★★★★★ Juicy, stylishly balanced, very drinkable 10 has accessible, freshly ripe fruit flavours, with spicy grip to finish. **The Beautiful Game Shiraz** In abeyance. **Oceanside Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot** ✓ 10 ★★★★★ Pure-fruited, vibrant, supple 10 blend. May lack power of 09 (★★★★) but still classic, without being too serious. **Granite Ridge Reserve** 08 ★★★★★ shiraz-led blend last year showed aromatic complexity; harmonious & framed by oak. First since charming 06 (★★★). **Bush Vine Chenin Blanc** ✓ 10 ★★★★★ Pocket-friendly 10 over-delivers on quality with expressive flavours, length, concentration & freshness. Discontinued: **Chenin Blanc-Chardonnay-Viognier**. —IM