

The Winery of Good Hope



Stellenbosch (see Helderberg map) ■ Est/1stB 1998 ■ Open by appt ■ Owner(s) Alex Dale, Andrew Openshaw, Yalumba, Edouard Labeye, Craig Smith, Ben Radford, Heather Whitman, Stephen Ludlam ■ Winemaker(s) Edouard Labeye, Jacques de Klerk (Dec 2008), with Tubby May (Feb 2003) ■ Viticulturist(s) Edouard Labeye ■ ±120ha (cab, carignan, grenache, merlot, mourv, pinot, shiraz, chard, chenin, viog) ■ ±850t 50/50 red/white ■ 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 021-855-5528 ■ F 021-855-5529

One thing the team at The Winery of Good Hope could never feel is under-appreciated. The yearly news digest from guiding spirit Alex Dale is a paean of praise for the staff. 'Amazing dedication... beyond the call of duty attitude from day one' he reserves for the winery's many out-of-doors toilers whose contribution is acknowledged via the award-winning Land of Hope Educational Trust, funded through the eponymous wines and chaired by this guide's founder, John Platter. Looking beyond human capital, infrastructure news focuses on the new quality-driven warehousing and bottling facility, complementing the recently built underground barrel cellar. Next up is a multi-purpose visitors' centre, signalling a new domestic focus fronted by in-house sommelier Mia Martensson and backed by new local distribution arrangements.

Radford Dale range

★★★★★ **Freedom Pinot Noir** ☞ Unfiltered satin-textured **08** fresh, alluring & expressive; richly textured fruit, minerality & supple savoury tannins from 10 mths Burg brls. WO Elgin.

★★★★★ **Shiraz** ☞ **06** (not retasted) espresso, black plums, ground pepper captured within silky, juicy structure, ensured drinking pleasure. Unfiltered. 14 mths mostly Fr, 40% new.

★★★★★ **Gravity Shiraz** (50%), cab & merlot drip-drained to large vats for gutsy **06**, giving dense fruit-packed wine, supple, polished tannins. 15% alc in keeping with big, brooding style; too young to broach now, despite suaveness. Perfumed **05** (★★★★★).

★★★★★ **Shiraz-Viognier** ☞ Tasted last yr, co-ferm, harmonious **06** had smoky dark tones of full-ripe fruit; viog added aromatic intrigue. Smooth-textured from careful oakling.

★★★★★ **Shiraz-Merlot** Last ed tentatively rated brl sample **06** offered scrub, brambleberries & pepper, & firm tannins. Well constructed, great potential.

★★★★★ **Chardonnay** ✓ ☞ 'Focused on backbone, not butter' says Alex D of classy brl-ferm **08**. Intense citrus, peach flavours with lime edge drawn by mineral backbone & shot through with fine, savoury acidity.

★★★★★ **Viognier** ☞ Distinctive **08** achieves aimed-for tighter, leaner Condrieu style with stylish lees complexity & minerality driving exotic spices & dried peaches. Striking **07** (★★★★★) also Rhône yeasts & Burg brls.

★★★★★ **Natural Sweet Viognier** ☞ Pvsly tasted **07** assaulted the senses with pineapple & lavender aromas, mouthcoating richness, satin texture & ultra-long finish.

Merlot Await next.

Land of Hope range NEW

★★★★★ **Cabernet Sauvignon** ✓ ☞ Elegant Bdx-inspired **07** classic, beautifully complex with mineral core; expressive blackcurrant flavours restrained by herbal edge & judicious oak (16 mths Fr). Perfect, refreshing food wine ex Helderberg vines. Proceeds from these to ed trust for staff children.

★★★★★ **Chenin Blanc** ☞ Wonderful minerality & richness in expressive **08**; fine, vibrant acidity in harmony with sumptuous baked apple fruit, driving flavoursome finish. Mainly old Helderberg bushvines.

Black Rock range

★★★★★ **Red Blend** ✓ ☞ Remarkably textured, strikingly individual & complex **07** from shiraz-led blend Rhône varieties. Fresh roasted spice & scrub, distinctive minerality outlining abundant, rich & savoury blueberry fruit. 35% new oak. WO Swartland, like next.

★★★★★ **White Blend** ☞ Distinctive, complex **08** blend spicy old bushvine chenin (56%), chard, clairette. Complex oak regime adds weight, supports rich flavours & contributes to seamless integration & balance.

Vinum range

★★★★★ **Cabernet Sauvignon** ☞ Tasted last yr, complex yet accessible **06** had creamy red fruit, integrated 15 mths oak. Svelte lines, white pepper, dried herb notes.

★★★★ **Chenin Blanc** ✓ ☰ Beautifully balanced, lithe **08**, confidently styled & pure; softly spicy apples, pears & citrus peel embraced & textured by small oak ferm portion & fine minerality.

The Winery of Good Hope range

Chardonnay ☺ ☰ ★★★ Unoaked **09** delights with notes of nougat & Golden Delicious apple balanced by zesty acidity.

Pinot Noir ☰ ★★★★★ Expressive cherry fruit & classic aromatic earthiness on **08**; touch rusticity in mineral finish. Mostly older oak. Elgin, Stbosch vines. **Pinotage** ☰ Await new vtge. **Shiraz** ✓ ☰ ★★★★★ Fresh Rhône-style **08**, prosciutto, scrub aromas & nicely firm acid, grippy tannin supporting ripe dark berry fruit. **The Beautiful Game Shiraz** **NEW** ✓ ☰ ★★★★★ Enveloping dark plum succulence of **08** makes friendly, popular & confident style; 86% shiraz, 3 Rhône varieties adding flair. WO Coastal. **Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot** **NEW** ✓ ☰ ★★★★★ Unwooded **08** expressive, fleshy berry fruit; spicy, grippy tannins & well-measured acidity give structure & seriousness. **Granite Ridge Reserve** New btng unready. **Chenin Blanc** ✓ ☰ ★★★★★ Peach & pear **09**, full of flavour & verve, fruitiness softens variety's fresh grapefruit acidity. Perfect versatile, everyday wine. **Chenin Blanc-Chardonnay-Viognier** ✓ ☰ ★★★★★ Rich, dry **08** oaked blend; plenty stone fruit flavour in pleasingly drinkable style, restrained mineral aftertaste. Swartland WO. — IM