

The Winery of Good Hope



Location: Somerset West ■ Map: Helderberg ■ WO: Stellenbosch/Swartland/Elgin/Coastal ■ Est/1stB 1998 ■ Open by appt ■ Owner(s) Alex Dale, Andrew Openshaw, Yalumba, Edouard Labeye, Cliff Roberson, Ben Radford, Heather Whitman ■ Winemaker(s) Edouard Labeye, Jacques de Klerk (Dec 2008), with Tubby May (Feb 2003) ■ Viticulturist(s) Edouard Labeye ■ ±120ha (cab, carignan, grenache, merlot, mourv, ptage, pinot n, shiraz, chard, chenin, clairette, viog) ■ ±850t 50/50 red/white ■ Postnet Suite 124 Private Bag X15 Somerset West 7129 ■ thewineryofgoodhope@thewineryofgoodhope.co.za ■ www.thewineryofgoodhope.com, www.landofhope.co.za ■ S 34° 0' 57.5" E 018° 49' 2.6" ■ **T 021-855-5528** ■ F 021-855-5529

'In terms of business sustainability, right now we're looking to balance our 30-country export portfolio and mitigate currency risks with a stronger home-market presence,' says Burgundy-raised MD Alex Dale. Socially, the winery's Land of Hope project, now in its third year, has won acclaim both in South Africa and abroad, featuring for the second year running in the Financial Mail Wine Awards. The project funds schooling for 10 children and dependents of previously-disadvantaged employees. Environmentally, the winery's carbon footprint has been in the spotlight, with viticultural and winemaking practices, packaging, logistics and water use at the cellar all the subject of ongoing sustainability measures. A steady stream of wine awards tops off the team's sense of being on the right track.

Radford Dale range

- ★★★★ **Merlot** ✓ Complex, cedary, Bdx-like **08** (★★★★★), first since **05**. Elegant & appetising. Pleasing herbal edge & mineral backbone to layers plums, dark cherries; older oak adds spice, suppleness.
- ★★★★☆ **Freedom Pinot Noir** Expressive cherry fruit, earthiness in elegant **09**. Appetising cool-climate fruit flavours bright & complex, aided by wild-yeast ferm in Burg brls; supple grip in soft-textured, mineral finish. WO Elgin.
- ★★★★ **Shiraz** ✓ Restrained power in complex Rhône-styled **08** (★★★★★) step up from pvs **06**. Abundant roasted spices, pepper combine with appetising fresh red fruits. Seamless oaking, most Fr, third new, provides backdrop to vibrant mineral finish.
- ★★★★☆ **Gravity** Shiraz (50%), cab & merlot drip-drained to vats for gutsy **06** tasted last ed; dense & fruit-packed, supple, suave tannins. 15% alc in keeping with big, brooding style; perfumed **05** (★★★★★).
- ★★★★ **Shiraz-Viognier** Last tasted harmonious, smooth **06**; smoky dark tones, aromatic intrigue.
- ★★★★ **Shiraz-Merlot** Harmonious **07** with wild scrub aromas, spicy redcurrant flavours, fleshed out by merlot's juiciness & embraced by welcomingly soft but sufficiently grippy tannins.
- ★★★★☆ **Chardonnay** ✓ Burgundian-styled **09**, example of restraint & harmony. Layers deliciously ripe citrus fruit with lemon & lime core, streamlined by savoury acid & flinty backbone. Stylishly oaked, 11 mths Fr, 20% tank portion. Ex 3 Helderberg vyds.
- ★★★★☆ **Viognier** Overtly spicy, floral **09**, with peach & apricot charm. 11 mths in oak (dash new) broadens flavours; mineral backbone retains focus towards long, dry finish. More striking than **08**.
- ★★★★☆ **Vine Dried Viognier** Pvsly 'Natural Sweet'. Unctuous **08**, from grapes desiccated on the vine to concentrate sugars to whopping 290g/l. Dried apricots, honey make an indulgent, hedonistic dessert, lightened by low 10.5% alc & savoury acidity. Ferm in brl 11 mths.

Land of Hope range

- ★★★★☆ **Cabernet Sauvignon** ✓ Elegant, classic, single-vyd **08** seriously styled & expressive. Spicy, plush tannins enfold layers of voluptuous, compact red fruit, herbs & fine mineral core, to form an appetising, satisfying whole. Deftly oaked (16 mths Fr, 25% new).
- ★★★★ **Chenin Blanc** ✓ Utterly charming, floral **09** (★★★★★) step up from **08**, to reveal complex layers of lightly spicy, sweet yellow apples, perfectly poised acidity, minerality. Oak (11 mths 20% new) provides subtle platform for concentrated flavours.

Black Rock range

- ★★★★☆ **Red Blend** Individual & complex **07** shiraz-led blend Rhône varieties, not retasted. Roasted spice & scrub, minerality outlining rich & savoury blueberry fruit. 35% new oak. WO Swartland, like next.

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

Vinum range

★★★★ **Cabernet Sauvignon** ✓ ☞ **08**, obvious blackcurrant & cedar. 18 mths Fr oak (touch Am) bolsters pure, succulent fruit, adding sufficient grip to plushness; minerality rallies finish. Just-dry; 14.5% alc.

★★★★ **Chenin Blanc** ✓ ☞ Limpid previewed **09** (★★★★★) from low-yield bushvines more complex than **08**. Superbly styled, layers of citrus, stone fruits broadened by 20% portion ferm/yr in brl; focused line of acidity to mineral finish.

The Winery of Good Hope range

Unoaked Chardonnay ☺ ☞ ★★★ Perky sample **10** delivers charm & style. Lees adds richness to stone fruit, citrus flavours, mineral finish.

Pinot Noir Reserve ☞ ★★★★ Fragrant **09** has 'Reserve' in name unlike **07** (★★★★). Exhibits Elgin purity, Stbosch vyds contribute earthiness & grip to red cherry flavours. Oak adds dimension without obscuring bright fruit. **Bush Vine Pinotage** ✓ ☞ ★★★★★ **09** dense, concentrated from old bushvines. No oak to mask juicy, succulent red/black fruit. Delicious savoury, spicy finish. These reds mostly pvsly with straight varietal name. **Mountainside Shiraz** ✓ ☞ ★★★★★ Spicy tannins underpin **09**'s abundant dark fruits; half oaked, half ex tank allowing fresh berry fruit to shine through. **The Beautiful Game Shiraz** ☞ ★★★★★ Dark plum succulence on **08**, tasted last yr; 86% shiraz, 3 Rhône varieties adding flair. WO Coastal. **Oceanside Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot** ✓ ☞ ★★★★★ Bags more succulent fruit in v lightly oaked **09** blend than in **08** (★★★★★); lovely spicy grip of grape tannins structures expansive juiciness. **Granite Ridge Reserve** ✓ ★★★★★ Elegant **08** shiraz-led blend with carignan, grenache, mourv; wonderful aromatic complexity; fynbos/wild herbs; harmonious red fruit, roasted spice, framed by oak. First since charming **06** (★★★). **Bush Vine Chenin Blanc** ✓ ☞ ★★★★★ Preview **10** over-delivers on quality. Intense pear, yellow apple flavours, with freshness, length & concentration. **Chenin Blanc-Chardonnay-Viognier** ☞ ★★★★★ Rich, dry **08** oaked blend tasted last ed; pleasingly drinkable & restrained. Swartland WO. — IM