

South African Beauties Durbanville Hills & Plaisir de Merle



A country with a proud tradition in winegrowing, or wine farming as they call it, South Africa combines Old World tradition with New World enthusiasm. The country boasts plentiful land and ideal climate for viticulture, and has become a formidable player in the global wine market. A recent tasting of two labels demonstrated that wines from Cape of Good Hope have much to offer in value and quality.

Durbanville Hills wines are well priced and very likable. Fruit expressive but not heavy; vibrant and delightful but not lightweight. They are beautifully balanced and appealing with elegant structure, making them versatile food wines.

Plaisir de Merle reds, on the other hand, are dense and powerful wines of sturdy frame and concentration. Beautifully proportioned and richly flavoured, these are impressive offerings for wine enthusiasts.

Durbanville Hills



Cabernet Sauvignon 2010

Durbanville **86** **4 Stars**

It's immediately approachable and fragrant on the nose displaying cassis and dark plum with hints of game and dried herb notes. The palate is ripe and fruity with smooth texture and chalky tannins, providing a pleasing dry finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$15.00. Oct 2013.

Merlot 2009

Durbanville **83** **3.5 Stars**

It's savoury and gamey on the nose showing dark fruits and leather/spice notes. The medium-bodied palate is well fruited with roundness and fine tannins. A lovely wine to partner savoury meaty dishes. At its best: now to 2015. \$15.00. Oct 2013.

Pinotage 2011

Durbanville **86** **4 Stars**

Youthful and delightful, the perfumed nose shows dark plum, blueberry, floral and subtle spice aromas, leading to a juicy palate that's pristine and lively with an elegantly dry finish. A friendly pinotage. At its best: now to 2016. \$15.00. Oct 2013.

Pinotage 2012

Durbanville **88** **4 Stars**

It's sweet fruited and immediately appealing with ripe plum and blackberry flavours together with subtle spice and nutty complexity. It's ripe and silky on the palate, leading to a delicate dry finish. A lovely expression of the variety. At its best: now to 2016. \$15.00. Oct 2013.

Bastion 2010

Durbanville **88** **4 Stars**

The wine shows complex and fragrant aromas of dark fruits, game, cigar and roasted nuts, followed by a richly flavoured palate that's velvety and supple, and finishes long and firm. A blend of cabernet sauvignon and shiraz, this is sturdy and very long on the finish. At its best: now to 2016. \$15.00. Oct 2013.



**Plaisir de Merle
Merlot 2011**

Paarl, 94 pts (5 stars) \$29.00.



Deeply coloured and intensely aromatic, it's filled with dark fruit, game, cedar and cigar notes on the nose. The palate is concentrated and succulent showing superb mid palate weight and texture, backed by plenty of supple tannins. A glorious example of stylish merlot. At its best: now to 2022. \$29.00. Oct 2013.

**Plaisir de Merle
Cabernet Sauvignon
2010**

Paarl, 93 pts (5 stars) \$29.00.



It's beautifully perfumed on the nose displaying cassis, game, leather and roasted nut aromas, leading to a concentrated and focused palate that's both generous and firm. The wine shows excellent structure and length. A seriously good cabernet. At its best: now to 2020. \$29.00. Oct 2013.

