

BEST-VALUE WINES FOR 2009

NEDERBURG THE WINEMASTER'S RESERVE CHENIN BLANC

This is a great example of how Nederburg's wines are improving with every release. It is a delightful, wood-matured white with a toasty overlay adding to its base of ripe fruit.

Retail price: R39.99

SIMONSIG CHENIN BLANC

An unwooded Chenin Blanc with all the melon, peach and zesty fruit that this cultivar can offer. It is released soon after harvest and at its tasty best when young.

Retail price: R37

ZONDERNAAM CHARDONNAY

Taste this blind next to a higher priced Chardonnay – I guarantee you will be surprised by its balance and drinkability without skimping on Chardonnay typicity and excellent fruit/oak harmony.

Retail price: R58

ALEXANDER FONTEIN SAUVIGNON BLANC

This crisp, fresh white, with plenty of the typical Darling Sauvignon Blanc flavours and character, regularly outscores more expensive Sauvignon Blancs in tastings and competitions. Despite the large quantities in which it is made, the quality has never faltered and it flies off the shelves both here and abroad.

Retail price: R33.95

JORDAN CHAMELEON ROSE

Gary and Kathy Jordan make few mistakes in reading the market and this dry rosé will please their many fans. A salmon-pink colour, it bursts with summer fruits and tingling crispness.

Retail price: R51

DARLING CELLARS BLACK GRANITE SHIRAZ

A spicy, peppery Shiraz with black fruits and a full, juicy palate. This must be the most underrated of the well-priced, high-quality Darling Cellars wines.

Retail price: R39.90

BRAMPTON CABERNET SAUVIGNON (RUSTENBERG ESTATE)

Rustenberg is known for the superior quality of its Cabernet Sauvignon and this second-label, screw-cap Cab shows why. Packed with blackcurrant fruit and lightly toasted oak, it's a rich mouthful with a great finish. It's hardly surprising, then, that it has garnered a number of top awards.

Retail price: R55

VILLIERA MERLOT

All the Villiera wines show consistent quality at a great price, but the Merlots are the ones that impress me most. This one has lovely red fruit and the smoothest, silkiest of palates.

Retail price: R52.99

