

Travel  
**In mature company**

Neil Pendock  
599 words  
29 May 2011  
The Sunday Times  
SUNTIM  
Travel Magazine  
English  
Copyright 2011 Avusa Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved.

Wine.

Side BAR.

NEIL PENDOCK

Two Banghoek beauties show SA is growing up nicely

INVESTMENT expert Adrian Vanderspuy was born on the farm Rainbow's End in the Banghoek valley and he found his pot of gold on the neighbouring property, Oldenburg. He now lives in Geneva and travels south four times a year. "I've been an outsider looking into SA for over 40 years," he says, "and now I take my wines and show the world what SA can do."

The world agrees we're first rate as Vanderspuy's wooded 2010 Chenin Blanc won gold at the **International Wine Challenge** in London earlier this month, while his 2008 Shiraz won gold at the Syrah du Monde Competition in France. Made in an intense, almost liqueur New World fruit/Old World elegance style, it is a doppelgänger for the iconic Hill of Grace made by Stephen Henschke in the Eden Valley of South Australia.

For starters, the bottles look the same — emo black with a quartered-shield coat of arms — and for both wines, a topographic vineyard feature is the secret of terroir. In the case of Oldenburg, there is a hill called "rondekop" (round head) in the middle of the farm up which Vanderspuy walks in his beanie "through layers of air", a bit like Kate Bush. Over in Oz, the antipodean Hill of Grace requires a healthy dose of imagination as it is a bit of a pancake. Vanderspuy's hill is 3°-5° cooler than Stellenbosch in summer (thanks to catching the cooling breezes) and warmer in winter due to more sun, which makes all the difference for reds.

Both farms were established by German settlers in their respective gardens of Eden and both sites produce Shiraz grapes with muscular, yet slippery, tannins. Yet for me, the Oldenburg secret is not Shiraz but rather the 2008 vintage Cabernet Sauvignon, made by winemaker Simon Thompson, in a restrained, sweetly fruited style in the pioneering perfumed mould of Etienne le Riche, the master of this expression in the Jonkershoek, a forgotten valley full of Afrikaans-speaking billionaires. Sans the mint of near neighbour Thelema and sans the tomato paste of the rest of Stellenbosch, in a word this wine is wonderful.

This is undoubtedly the most exciting Cabernet launched in the year to date by a rare bird indeed, whose first act — "proprietor's prerogative", laughs Thompson — was to grub up the old, virused Sauvignon Blanc vineyards. "By the time we would be ready to launch, Sauvignon would be in oversupply," responds Vanderspuy with the prolific plantings in Elgin in the back of his mind. "And, besides, Sauvignon Blanc is like sweets. As you get older and your palate matures, you just can't eat them anymore."

An acute opinion from someone living in the land of Lindt & Sprüngli and other fine chocolates, but true. Could SA wine be about to leave its infancy and make the transition to the grown-up world of fine wine? SA was conspicuous by its absence at the Concours de Sauvignon Competition held in Bordeaux earlier this month at which 470 entries from around the world were judged. If SA wine is indeed moving from infantile Sauvignon to mature Merlot, Vanderspuy's investment in Oldenburg will surely shoot out the lights, as they say in investment circles.

•Read Pendock Uncorked at <http://blogs.thetimes.co.za/pendock>

ON THE VINE: Oldenburg Vineyards in the Banghoek Valley of Stellenbosch, less than an hour from Cape Town

GROWN UP: Adrian Vanderspuy, owner of Oldenburg Vineyards



.News

## **South African wines take pride of place in Top 10**

Derek Smith  
437 words  
28 May 2011  
Weekend Post  
WEEKP  
Leisure  
English  
Copyright 2011 Avusa Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved.

THE inbox was humming last week with missives from vigilant PRs anxious to spread news of their clients' successes at two of the world's most highly regarded wine happenings – the Decanter Awards and the **International Wine Challenge (IWC)**, both held in the UK.

Space limitations preclude me from doing justice to both at the same time, so I'll stick to the Decanters this week and come back to the IWC later.

Let's start with the stats – 12252 entries from just about everywhere on earth, 237 gold medals awarded, judges from 25 different countries and trophies galore. South Africa won 26 of those 237 golds plus a bagful of silvers and bronzes, but perhaps the most impressive of our accomplishments was the number of our wines placed among the Top 10 in the various categories of cultivar.

Our chardonnays, all of them 2009 vintages, won three Top 10 places. Glen Carlou was in number two spot, Cape Point Vineyards was placed seventh and Jordan's Nine Yards came ninth.

We also had three Top 10 sauvignon blancs, with Kleine Zalze's Family Reserve taking fifth place, Quoin Rock's The Nicobar coming sixth and Lomond's Pincushion Single Vineyard seventh.

In the sweet category Nederburg achieved third place with its off-decorated Winemaster's Reserve Noble Late Harvest, leaving the remaining three places for the reds.

In the syrah (shiraz) category Waterkloof won third place with its Circumstance 2008 and two estates made the list with their cabernet sauvignons – Longridge with its 2008 and Rickety Bridge (Paulina's Reserve 2008). Spier also deserves a mention for the Best Value award received for its Mitchells Pass 2010 malbec.

The golds went to: Thelema Mountain Vineyards Sutherland cab-sav/petit verdot '08; Waterkloof Circumstance Syrah 2008; Stellenzicht Golden Triangle Pinotage 2008; Steenberg semillon 2010; Spier Mitchells Pass Malbec 2010; Saxenburg Shiraz Select 2006; Rijks Estate Syrah 2007; Rickety Bridge Paulina's Reserve Cabernet Sav 2008; Quoin Rock The Nicobar 2009; Nederburg Winemaster Reserve chenin blanc 2009; Nederburg Private Bin Edelkeur 2007; Longridge chenin blanc 2010; Longridge cab sav 2008; Lomond Pincushion Single Vineyard sav blanc 2010; KWV Cathedral Cellar chardonnay 2010; Kleine Zalze Vineyard Selection chenin blanc 2010; Jordan Nine Yards chardonnay 2009; Fleur du Cap Unfiltered cab-sav 09; Drostdy Hof chardonnay 2010; Dieu Dionne Cross Selection shiraz-viogner 2008; Cape Point Vineyards Isliedh 2010; Cape Point Vineyards chardonnay 2009; Beaumont Wines Hope Marguerite 2010; Asda Extra Special Fair Trade chenin blanch 2010 and Holden Manz Big G 2009 cab-sav/cab franc.

Document WEEKP00020110530e75s0000w

[home](#)

[wine news](#)

[our wines](#)

[wine basics](#)

[wine course](#)

[shop](#)

[recipes](#)

[book of the month](#)

[events](#)

[online mag](#)

[blogs](#)

[about us](#)

[login](#)

## international wine challenge releases 2011 results



Be the first of your friends to like this.

19 May 2011

[Back to Wine News](#)

Here are the results of the International Wine Challenge 2011, that took place in London. Our lovely editor, Jenny Ratcliffe- Wright was judge there, who judged countless wines among top wine judges from around the world.

19 May 2011 by [Internationalwinechallenge.com](#)

*The results of the International Wine Challenge 2011 were announced on Tuesday, 17 May at the London International Wine Fair.*

A total of 48 countries entered wines with 5 117 medals awarded (406 Gold, 1 687 Silver and 3 024 Bronze). A further 3 655 wines were commended. The top three Gold medal-winning nations for 2011 were reigning champions France with 98, Australia 61 and Portugal 42. ([Click here](#) to read more)

The winning wines were each tasted by panels drawn from more than 400 experienced judges, including many Masters of Wine. The IWC's trophy winners, chosen from the Gold medal-winning wines, will be announced in June. ([Click here](#) to read more)

Thirteen South African wines, from ten producers, won Gold medals. The Gold medal-winning wines were:

Backsberg Family Reserve White 2009  
Edgebaston Berry Box 2009  
Klein Constantia Estate Vin de Constance 2005  
Fleur Du Cap Unfiltered Semillon 2010  
Fleur Du Cap Unfiltered Viognier 2010  
Groot Constantia Grand Constance 2008  
Groot Constantia Sauvignon Blanc 2010  
Kaapect Steytler Pentagon 2007  
Nederburg Winemasters Reserve Noble Late Harvest 2010  
Oldenburg Chenin Blanc 2010  
Spier Creative Block 3 2009  
Spier Landmark 21 Gables Chenin Blanc 2009  
Tokara Reserve Collection Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2009

South Africa also walked away with 66 Silver medals. For full results visit [www.internationalwinechallenge.com](http://www.internationalwinechallenge.com).



## WineNews | latest south african wine related news

[« go back to WineNews](#)



### International Wine Challenge releases 2011 results

19 May 2011 by [Internationalwinechallenge.com](#)

*The results of the International Wine Challenge 2011 were announced on Tuesday, 17 May at the London International Wine Fair.*

A total of 48 countries entered wines with 5 117 medals awarded (406 Gold, 1 687 Silver and 3 024 Bronze). A further 3 655 wines were commended. The top three Gold medal-winning nations for 2011 were reigning champions France with 98, Australia 61 and Portugal 42. (Click [here](#) to read more)

The winning wines were each tasted by panels drawn from more than 400 experienced judges, including many Masters of Wine. The IWC's trophy winners, chosen from the Gold medal-winning wines, will be announced in June. (Click [here](#) to read more)

Thirteen South African wines, from ten producers, won Gold medals. The Gold medal-winning wines were:

Backsberg Family Reserve White 2009  
Edgebaston Berry Box 2009  
Klein Constantia Estate Vin de Constance 2005  
Fleur Du Cap Unfiltered Semillon 2010  
Fleur Du Cap Unfiltered Viognier 2010  
Groot Constantia Grand Constance 2008  
Groot Constantia Sauvignon Blanc 2010  
Koopzicht Steytler Pentagon 2007  
Nederburg Winemasters Reserve Noble Late Harvest 2010  
Oldenburg Chenin Blanc 2010  
Spier Creative Block 3 2009  
Spier Landmark 21 Gables Chenin Blanc 2009  
Tokara Reserve Collection Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2009

South Africa also walked away with 66 Silver medals. For full results visit [www.internationalwinechallenge.com](http://www.internationalwinechallenge.com).

### related links

- ▶ Backsberg Estate
- ▶ Edgebaston
- ▶ Fleur du Cap
- ▶ Groot Constantia Estate (founded 1685)
- ▶ Kaapzicht Wine Estate
- ▶ Klein Constantia Estate
- ▶ Nederburg Wines
- ▶ Oldenburg Vineyards
- ▶ Spier
- ▶ Tokara