





Tielman (left) and Louis pictured in the new tasting room.

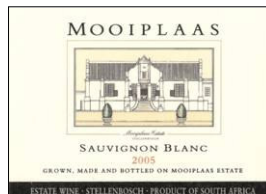
Up until 1995 all the estate's production was sold off as bulk wine or grapes. However, with improvements in quality and increasing demand, they started bottling their own wines starting with the 1995 Cabernet Sauvignon. Today around 10,000 cases a year are bottled, which represents around 20% of the total harvest. In this way only the best grapes are selected for the estate's label and this has undoubtedly ensured the growing reputation of their wines. The label

itself features the farm's Cape Dutch homestead. Built in 1833, it was declared a national monument in 1989.

Mooiplaas is relatively unusual in that only grape varieties suited to the estate's particular soil and climate are planted. There is Sauvignon and Chenin Blanc on the cool, higher slopes and Pinotage, Shiraz and Cabernet lower down, but no Chardonnay. It is true to say that all the wines are good but we were particularly impressed with the aromatic Sauvignon Blanc and the 2003 Shiraz, a worthy successor to the Veritas double-gold medal winning 2002.

**ZA0415W Mooiplaas Sauv Blanc 2005, Stellenbosch 14% £7.99**

Multi-award winning wine with Wine Magazine Best Value award and a listing on SAA Premium and First Class wine list. Wonderfully aromatic with a complex weave of nettle, gooseberry, grapefruit, cream and currant leaf flavours. Blends New World intensity with Old World depth and complexity. Balanced and long on the finish, this is great now and will certainly keep for a couple more years. Enjoy through to 2009.

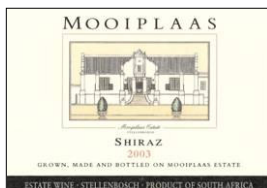


**ZA0423R Mooiplaas Pinotage 2003, Stellenbosch 14% £7.50**

A most refined Pinotage with the addition of 15% Cabernet Sauvignon to add depth and complexity. With just 15% of the blend aged in new barrels, the oak influence is kept in the background, whilst rounding and softening the flavours. Intense spicy aromas and notes of damson, liquorice and black cherry. Very smooth in the mouth, with juicy black fruit flavours, well-integrated oak a long, savoury finish with silky tannins. Soft and fruity and drinking very well now through to 2009.

**ZA0403R Mooiplaas Merlot 2003, Stellenbosch 14% £9.99**

This is in fact a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and though aged 20 months in 3<sup>rd</sup> fill French oak barrels, the fruit concentration is such that the oak influence is not great. Gorgeous aromas of ripe cherry, cassis, mocha and hints of vanilla, cedar and exotic spices. Lush, rich and powerful on the palate with a tremendously long finish where aromatic notes of plum, black cherry and all-spice come through. Though relatively youthful, it is quite delicious already. Enjoy to 2011



**ZA0443R Mooiplaas Shiraz 2003, Stellenbosch 14% £10.99**

This is a stunning Rhone-style Shiraz from low-yielding vines and aged 16 months in French oak barrels. The complex perfume is an interesting mix of black fruits, toasted oak and exotic spices. Good balance in the mouth, silky and very approachable despite its youth. Layers of different flavours with wild herbs, gamey notes and fine tannins evident on the finish. Enjoy now through to 2011.

DE MEYE ESTATE, Greater Simonsberg

De Meye is a small privately owned estate in the Greater Simonsberg ward of Stellenbosch, near Warwick and Kanonkop. Jan Myburgh and his son Philip are the fifth and sixth generations to farm this 100ha estate, of which just over half is vineyard and most of the remainder is planted to lavender, from which they produce a highly-regarded organic lavender oil.



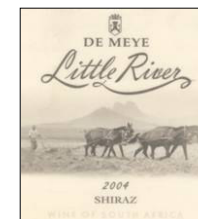
As at Mooiplaas, the vines have been carefully selected to suit the climate and soils. Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Chenin Blanc are planted, mostly on cooler south-east facing slopes. So there is no Sauvignon Blanc, but they are experimenting with new plantings of Cabernet Franc and Merlot. The vines are mostly between 10 and 35 years old and produce around 220 tons of hand-picked grapes. From this less than 14,000 cases of bottled wine are produced with the remainder sold off to the local co-operative.

English-born Marcus Milner is the winemaker and despite his South African home, I can vouch for the fact that he retains a great fondness for English beer. He and Philip, the viticulturalist, make a great team and together are propelling this boutique operation to greater prominence. Two different label ranges are produced. The De Meye name is used for the premium wines, whilst Little River is the "value-for-money" label; though it should be noted that, according to John Platter's Wine Guide, all the wines are 'exceptionally drinkable and well-priced' and the Cabernet Shiraz in particular is described as a 'Super Quaffer'. So there can be no excuse for not giving these delicious wines a try.

Little River Range

**ZA0364R Little River Cabernet Shiraz 2004, Stellenbosch 13.5% £5.99**

A blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon with 20% Shiraz aged a short time in oak barrels. Deep red / purple colour. Intense aromas of spicy black fruits, liquorice and tar. Bold and mouthfilling with bramble fruits, damson and black cherry, savoury tannins and an aromatic finish. Chunky, bistro-style wine to enjoy through to 2009. Wine Magazine 'Best Value' award 2007



**ZA0354R Little River Cabernet Sauvignon 2004, Stellenbosch 13.5% £6.49**

100% Cabernet Sauvignon from 15-20 year old vines and aged 15 months in small French oak barrels. Spicy black fruit aromas with notes of liquorice and black treacle. Full-bodied, savoury wine, robustly flavoured and some tannin on the finish. Still quite young and tight, but opens up to reveal softer damson and raspberry notes. Drink to 2010. John Platter 'Good Value' award and 3\*

**ZA0344R De Meye Little River Shiraz 2004, Stellenbosch 14% £6.49**

The effect of low-yielding 30 year old Shiraz vines is evident in this concentrated wine. Aged a year in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fill oak barrels, it displays an opaque, youthful plum colour with glycerine tears. Intense, perfumed aromas mixing exotic spices, ripe plums and mocha. Powerful, mouth-filling style bramble fruits, mulberry and cherry flavours, vanilla oak and a savoury, lightly tannic edge. Full-bodied with lingering, attractively aromatic finish. Drink now to 2009. 'Best Value' and 'Good Value' awards!