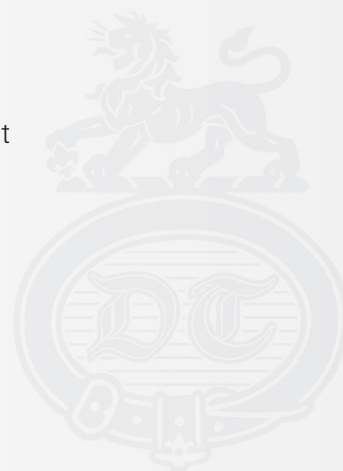


## DE TOREN Z 2008



Winemakers	Albie Koch
Varietal Blend	45% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Malbec, 7% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Stellenbosch
Alcohol Content	14.5%
TA	5.82 g/l
pH	3.55
RS	2.07 g/l



**Accolades** 2007: 92 points *Wine Enthusiast*  
2006: 91 points *Wine Enthusiast* "Editors' Choice"

### VINEYARDS:

The vineyards are situated approximately six miles from False Bay, at altitudes of 200 meters above sea level. The "Z" block, set on a south-facing slope, is exposed to cooling ocean breezes. There are ten different soil types found on the estate, but the Merlot-based Z hails mainly from clay-rich soils of Sterkspruit, Estcourt and Vilafonte.

### VINTAGE:

2008 was a long harvest season with slow, optimal ripening. Cooler than usual conditions, coupled with intermittent showers during the growing season, led to a delayed harvest for reds. Merlot was picked on February 29, but Cabernet was not harvested until early April. Winemaker Albie Koch was very satisfied with overall quality. In describing De Toren's tenth harvest, he repeated the words of Gary Player: "The more I practice, the luckier I get!"

### VINIFICATION AND MATURATION:

The handpicked grapes were hand sorted and destemmed, then gently crushed and gravity fed into open-top fermentation tanks. Regular manual punchdowns were performed during fermentation. The wine was basket pressed and gravity fed into 225 liter oak barrels (25% new, 25% second fill, 25% third fill and 25% fourth fill), where it was aged for 12 months. Each varietal component was vinified and aged separately. All varietals were aged in French oak with the exception of Malbec, which was aged in American oak.

### TASTING NOTES:

This sophisticated "Right Bank-styled" Bordeaux blend debuted in the 2004 vintage as a complement to De Toren's legendary "Left Bank-styled" Fusion V. A higher proportion of Merlot makes this delicious red softer and more approachable in its youth than its blockbuster sibling. It delivers intense, alluring aromas and flavors of plum, dark berries, black currant and spicebox along with classic notes of tobacco, graphite and leather and hints of rose petal.