



Stephen Tanzer's

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Rustenberg Wines

2004 Syrah Stellenbosch (\$38) Ruby-red. Knockout syrah nose of blackberry, currant, licorice, meat, gunflint and flowers. Concentrated, chewy and fresh, with a saline character to the penetrating savory, spicy flavors. Firm acids and tannins and a note of clove give this terrific freshness. More syrah than shiraz in character: I never would have guessed the alcohol was 14.3%. Long and complex on the back end. This is just the third crop from new French clones on decomposed granite soil. Badenhorst fermented it in stainless steel, left it on the skins for 70 days, and then racked it into old barrels for a year. **91**.