

Stephen Tanzer's
Winophilia



June 30, 2010



Winophilia Picks

2009 Buitenverwachting Beyond Sauvignon Blanc

Stephen Tanzer

Why should you care? Sauvignon blanc made without oak is a bracing, energizing white wine that's perfect for warm-weather drinking. Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé from the Loire Valley are the paradigms, offering strong citrus and gooseberry tones along with grassy, herbal and mineral notes. New Zealand's Marlborough is a factory for refreshing sauvignon, and a favored and somewhat cheaper alternative for many winos. But don't overlook South Africa. In addition to providing wonderfully complex, world-class examples of sauvignon, the country also produces some stunning values. Buitenverwachting (most Americans don't get much closer than "bite me for watching"), a white wine specialist located in the cooler Constantia region south of Cape Town, is known for its delicate yet gripping wines. Their entry-level sauvignon from the Coastal Region (called Beyond for the U.S. market) has to be the best \$10 sauvignon I've tasted in months.

What does it taste like? Pungent aromas of lemon and orange oil, tarragon and white pepper, with a touch of classic sauvignon herbaceousness. Juicy, dense and FLAVORFUL, boasting terrific intensity for the price. Firm but not austere. This gripping, tactile wine really dusts and lifts the palate.

How much does it cost, and where can you find it? \$10; capeclassics.com

