

JULY 2007

# WINE ENTHUSIAST®

ITALIAN LAKE COUNTRY

**92 Rustenberg 2005 John X Merriman (Stellenbosch); \$NA.** This wine is renegade winemaker Adi Badenhorst's favorite in his portfolio, and for good reason. In line with the best Bordeaux blends, it leads with an earthy, mineral-driven nose, and on the palate, it's both juicy and restrained. Expressive flavors of pepper, mocha and spice and elegant tannins give the wine a stately and sophisticated style. It will keep getting better in the bottle. Imported by Cape Classics. **Cellar Selection.** —S.K.