

La Bri (Robert)Parkerised

Scoring a whopping 90+ rating on 3 wines!

Our first foray into the erobertparker ratings

Review by Neal Martin

Wine Advocate # 209 (Oct 2013)



Rating 90 - 95:

An outstanding wine of exceptional complexity and character. In short, these are terrific wines

2012 La Bri Estate Chardonnay

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Franschoek, Western Cape, South Africa

Rating: 90

Drink 2013 - 2017

The 2012 Chardonnay is racked on to the gross lees and is raised in 35% new French oak. It has a classy bouquet with fine definition: light scents of white flowers and almond, hints of pistachio in the background. The palate is well-balanced with a caressing opening: plenty of honeyed fruit, hints of butter and citrus lemon with a poised if uncomplicated finish. But this is a thoughtfully made, delicious Chardonnay.

La Bri is included in this report simply because I wanted to expand coverage and I asked a friend with considerable knowledge of South Africa who I should seek out. A few days later, samples from this small Franschoek winery landed in the UK and very fine they are, too. The estate is owned by Robin Hamilton, while former Graham Beck winemaker Irene Waller has been overseeing the wines since 2010. The farm comprises of 15.5-hectares of vineyard on heterogeneous soils with only the Chardonnay fruit out-sourced for an MMC due out next year. This is an impressive quartet of wines that are patently well-crafted and I look forward to tasting more of this producer in the future. Importer: contact Douglas Elliot at Barrelhead LLC (NY)



2011 La Bri Estate Viognier

A Viognier Dry White Table wine from Franschoek, Western Cape, South Africa

Rating: 90+

Drink 2014 - 2019

The 2011 Viognier is matured for 12 months in third fill French oak. It has lucid green tints in the glass. The bouquet is a little smudged at first and takes time to compose itself. It feels a little reduced compared to the Chardonnay, though there are attractive scents of wet wool, honeysuckle and jasmine that begin to emerge after ten minutes in the glass. The palate is very phenolic on the entry with caressing, almost mellifluous tannins. There is a lot of extract here but it is very well contained and expresses the grape variety with some panache. Notes of dried pineapple and butterscotch, coconut and pear line the finish that displays good length. I would be intrigued to retaste this Viognier again after a year or two in bottle because it has more to offer.



2010 La Bri Estate Syrah

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Franschoek, Western Cape, South Africa

Rating: 91

Drink 2013 - 2019

The 2010 Syrah is blended with 6% Viognier and sees 20 months in oak, 50% new. It has a very clean, pure Syrah nose that develops some gorgeous floral scents with aeration: wilted violets and rose petals deftly interwoven into the ripe black cherry and black plum fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, well-judged acidity and a cohesiveness that is very engaging. It is underpinned by layers of ripe black fruit with seamless integrated oak toward the long finish. This is a Syrah that has happiness written all over it. Delicious!



LABRI 1694
FRANSCHHOEK