

**2012 Fable Mountain Vineyards
Jackal Bird**

The 2012 Jackal Bird is a blend of 45% Chenin Blanc, 20% Grenache Blanc, 17% Rousanne, 9% Chardonnay and 9% Viognier, raised for nine to 12 months in 500-liter French oak barrels with part of the malolactic stopped. It has a light fresh pear and wet-rock-scented bouquet that just needs a little more vigor (perhaps a conflict of several grape varieties.) The palate is crisp on the entry with touches of quince and lemon curd, a fine line of acidity and plenty of freshness toward the finish that just needs a touch more persistence. Still, this is nicely balanced, fresh and gets to grip with the grape variety well.

Though I did not have time to visit Fable Mountain Vineyards, I did have a chance to meet Australian-born winemaker Rebecca Tanner and viticulturalist Paul Nicholls when I spent an evening in Tulbagh. It is owned by former managing partner of Screaming Eagle, Charles Banks, who in 2010 acquired both Mulderbosch and Tulbagh Mountain Vineyards, renaming the latter. Under its previous monicker, it was a winery that was heading toward greatness under Chris and Andrea Mullineux. But following their departure it lost its way rather and the wines dipped in quality. I did not have any particular expectations when I revisited th...

- Neal Martin (October, 2014)

**2011 Fable Mountain Vineyards
Night Sky**

The 2011 Night Sky is a blend of 60% Syrah, 25% Mourvedre and 15% of Swartland Grenache with 30% whole-cluster fruit. The nose needs some encouragement, but it is worth the effort with some gorgeous blackberry and mulberry aromas emerging, interlaced with white pepper and fennel. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, fleshy in the mouth with sweet, ripe cassis and blackcurrant toward the finish. What a delightful wine to enjoy over the next 4 or 5 years.

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**2011 Fable Mountain Vineyards
Syrah**

The 2011 Syrah comes from the Tulbagh estate and sees eight to 24 months in 500-liter French oak of which one-third is new. The first word that springs to mind on the nose is "Clape" – a Cornas doppelganger that has wonderful definition. The palate is very intense and mineraly, with layers of ripe blackberry, cassis and white pepper and enormous structure on the salted licorice finish that manages to maintain finesse. This is one of the best South African Syrah that I tasted during my tasting – bravo.

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