



Destiny Bay

A \$275 Bordeaux blend from New Zealand certainly gets your attention. I was so fascinated that I actually went to visit the Destiny Bay winery, not an easy thing to do, since it's located on an island. Waiheke Island is a 40-minute ferry ride from Auckland, and it's a different world. This mountainous island is a vacation paradise and home to nearly 20 wineries.

Iowa-born mergers and acquisitions specialist Mike Spratt fell in love with Waiheke and bought a lush bowl-shaped piece of land on the back side of the island. He planted it with four Bordeaux varieties—Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec—and hired Frenchman Luc Desbonnets to make the wines.

Here are my notes on the Destiny Bay wines:

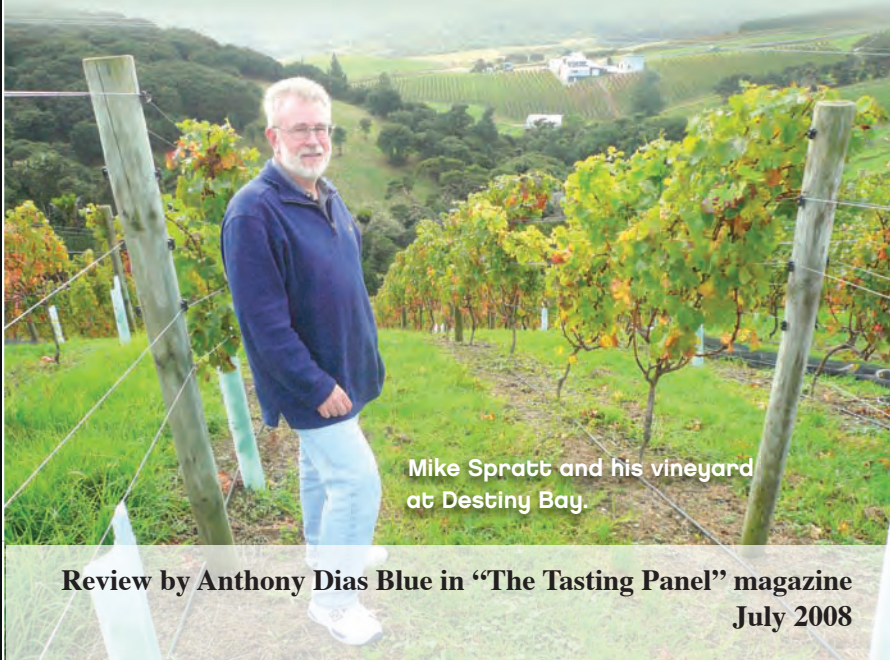
2005 Mystae, Estate, Waiheke Island (\$115) Dark and rich with lush texture and fresh berry fruit; lovely structure, great length and racy acidity; smooth, intense and totally balanced; 49% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec . 92 points

2005 Magna Praemia, Estate, Waiheke Island (\$275) Smooth, lush and balanced with rich texture and bright plum and racy acidity; long, complex and totally balanced with seamless delivery and lovely follow through; 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 8% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Franc. 95

2006 Destinae (Aeolus), Waiheke Island (\$88) Silky and spiced with lively acidity and supple texture ; fresh, juicy and bright with fine tannins and flavors of plum and tangy fruit; long, balanced; 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 17% Malbec, 15% Cabernet Franc. 89

2006 Mystae, Waiheke Island (\$115) Dark, dense and luscious with racy plum and notes of coffee, chocolate and spice; smooth, fresh and supple with balance and good length; elegant and complex; 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec. 91

2006 Magna Praemia, Waiheke Island (\$275) Smooth and rich with lovely plum and silky texture; supple, long and elegant with complexity, depth and lovely notes of minerals and soft spice; 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec . This one needs time. 92



Mike Spratt and his vineyard at Destiny Bay.

Review by Anthony Dias Blue in "The Tasting Panel" magazine
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