**Kutch Wines 2009 Pinot Noir, McDougall Ranch, Sonoma Coast ($48)**
Bright, forward and juicy with ripe cherry and lively structure; dense, fresh and showing some elegant earth nuances; tangy and complex with great charm and graceful style.

**Imports**

**Banfi 2010 San Angelo Pinot Grigio, Toscana, Italy ($17)**
Smooth and juicy with ripe melon and soft peach; neatly structured with lovely texture and bright acidity; long and mellow.

**Villa Maria 2010 Sauvignon Blanc, Cellar Selection, Marlborough, New Zealand ($20)**
Fresh and juicy with nerve and verve; tangy lime and peach with racy acidity and smooth texture; pure, long and bright with forward flavors and classic Marlborough fruit.

**Inniskillin Niagara 2007 Vidal Icewine, Niagara Peninsula, Canada ($60/375 ml.)**
Medium amber color; tangy, juicy and syrupy with creamy texture; sweet, intense and mouth filling with amazing richness and depth; an extraordinary expression of concentrated fruit.

**Concha y Toro 2009 Chardonnay, Marqués de Casa Concha, Limarí Valley, Chile ($13)**
Tangy green apple and racy acidity; subtle oak and bright ripe fruit flavors; complex, elegant and quite lovely.

**Cavit NV Vino Santo Aréle, Trentino, Italy ($90/500 ml.)**
Bright orange amber color; silky and complex with forward flavors and classic Mariborough fruit.

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**The “Other” New Zealand: Waiheke Island**

*If you think New Zealand only produces Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir, see page 28 for our introduction to New Zealand’s Waiheke Island, where Bordeaux blends, along with Syrahs and Malbeks, are the rule. After visiting Waiheke several years ago, I became convinced that this small spot is producing some of New Zealand’s—and the world’s—best reds. Here are my notes on a few recent releases. —A.D.B.*

**Cable Bay Vineyards 2008 Syrah ($36)**
Rich blackberry nose; silky and tangy with excellent structure; juicy and bright with pure fruit and lively spice; long and nervy; lush and ripe.

**Cable Bay Vineyards 2005 Five Hills ($27)**
Smooth, dense and herbal with earth, spice and plum; ripe and brightly structured; long and balanced. 64% Merlot, 18% Malbec, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cab Franc.

**Destiny Bay 2007 Magna Praemia ($275)**
Rich plum, cassis and spiced nose; velvety, luscious and ripe with concentration and incredible intense fruit with notes of spice, vanilla and chocolate all riding on a core of pure and well-integrated acidity that brings it all into balance; stunning and super long. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 5% Cab Franc, 5% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot.

**Destiny Bay 2007 Destinae ($75)**
Silky and ripe with complex aromas; smooth and lush with plum, blueberry and notes of earth, spice and oak; supple and complex, long and seamless. 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Cab Franc, 33% Merlot, 12% Malbec.

**Destiny Bay 2007 Mystae ($115)**
Rich plum and chocolate nose; velvety and dense with plum, blackberry, spice and sweet vanilla oak all in perfect balance; tangy acidity is nicely integrated and complements and ennobles the wine; complex, long and impressive. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 11% Cab Franc, 6% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot.

**Stonyridge 2008 LaRose ($173)**
Dense, ripe plum nose; silky and bright with smooth, black raspberry and juicy acidity; generous, balanced and layered with well-integrated oak; pure and elegant, long and stylish.

**Stonyridge 2008 Pilgrim ($67)**
Dark and rich with a lovely blackberry nose; smooth and dense with tangy berry fruit and lush texture; supple and nicely structured with notes of spice and minerals.

**Stonyridge 2008 Malbec, Luna Negra ($67)**
Spiced plum nose; juicy and bright with racy acidity underpinning ripe plum and black raspberry fruit; edgy, clean and pure with balance and intensity; long and stylish.

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**Ste. Michelle Wine Estates**

**Martin Scott Wines Limited**

**Constellation Wines U.S.**

**Golden State Wine Company**
NEW ZEALAND

Small But Beautiful

NEW ZEALAND’S WAIHEKE ISLAND

story and photos by Allison Levine

Thirty-five minutes by ferry from downtown Auckland is New Zealand’s “Island of Wine” — Waiheke Island. With only 535 planted acres and 30 growers, Waiheke is one of the world’s most exclusive wine regions, producing top-tier Bordeaux blends and Syrahs, as well as white wines such as Chardonnay, Viognier and Pinot Gris. To get an idea of how exclusive, consider this: New Zealand produces less than 1% of the world’s exported wines, and Waiheke Island contributes less than 1% of this production.

While a maritime climate is not unique to Waiheke Island, the features that set it apart from other wine-producing regions in New Zealand are its enviable situation and its ancient soil structure. In addition to a warm, dry climate, similar to that of Bordeaux, almost the entire island is built on 145- to 158-million-year-old rock from the Jurassic period, covered over by thin layers of soil and clay.

For tasting notes on current — and very impressive — Waiheke Island wines, see the Blue Reviews featurette on p. 71.

Another area just 35 minutes north of Auckland is Waipera Thermal Spa Resort, where Waipera water originates. This family-friendly retreat consists of natural thermal pools sheltered by the native bush and hills of the Waipera valley.


Sean Spratt left San Francisco to join his parents Ann and Mike Spratt when they moved to Waiheke Island in 1999-2000. Producing 2000 cases per year, Destiny Bay is the first fully-certified sustainable winery and vineyard on Waiheke Island.