

"Wine is bottled poetry"
Robert Louis Stevenson

February 2007

NEWSLETTER

HARVEST UPDATE

Some of the winemaker's are already putting their feet up, while others have only just started. Let's take a look at what's happening with the 2007 harvest:

Schalk van der Westhuizen says the grapes are looking good and healthy on **Alto**, but he can't give us much more detail as he only started harvesting on the last day of February.



At the other end of the Winelands, **Tukulu's Adian Fry** stopped harvesting the day Schalk started.

Says Adian: We started harvesting at a moderate pace on 11 January but things speeded up drastically after the heat wave at the end of the month. The grapes began to ripen much faster and this meant that we had to harvest grapes much earlier than expected. Despite the rush and the heat we still have good quality grapes with excellent grape analysis, good flavours and excellent colours on the reds. Due to the organic layer of the well-managed cover crops, very intensive crop thinning and suckering, the organic vines performed excellently with high sugars, moderate acids and low pH's recorded in most cases.

Crop size will definitely be less than expected (20%) as a result of intensive crop thinning and the effect of the heat wave but we have fortunately not had to sacrifice on quality. We have harvested our first batches of Tannat and Mourvedre this year, so are looking forward to seeing how they turn out.

In the middle of the Winelands, **Niel Bester** is complaining that the harvest on **Plaisir de Merle** is dragging its heels. "It promises to be fantastic, and the heat wave and subsequent rain did little to affect quality, however, not much is ripe and ready yet.

So far we have harvested some Merlot, Cabernet franc, Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon and the wines are looking superb with intense colour.



CAPLEGENDS

NEWS FROM NORTH AMERICA

USA

The well-known wine publication Wine Enthusiast recently awarded the *Allesverloren Shiraz 2005* an 88/100 score and selected it as their Best Buy.

The Plaisir de Merle Grand Plaisir was selected by Gulfstream Aerospace to be served to their blue chip customers. Founded in 1958, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of General Dynamics (NYSE: GD), is widely regarded as the world standard in business aviation. Based in Savannah, Georgia, Gulfstream has produced more than 1 500 aircraft for corporate, government, private and military customers around the world. Says Cape Legends Business Manager, Cobus Joubert: "We are extremely proud and honoured to have Plaisir de Merle associated with a company of this magnitude".

CANADA

Selection Mondiales

Sélections Mondiales des Vins Canada continues to qualify as one of the oldest and most important wine competitions in the world. Taking place annually in Montreal, we are proud to confirm the following awards won by Cape Legends wines:

Grand Gold

(only ten wines, out of 1 700 entered, received Grand Gold this year)

Jacobsdal Cabernet Sauvignon
2003

Gold

Alto Cabernet Sauvignon 2004
Neethlingshof Shiraz 2003
Stellenzicht Syrah 2001

Silver

Plaisir de Merle Shiraz 2004
Stellenzicht GT Shiraz 2004
Uitkyk Cabernet/Shiraz 2004



Plaisir de Merle Cabernet Sauvignon; Le Bonheur Chardonnay and Le Bonheur Cabernet Sauvignon were promoted by the Société des Alcools du Québec (SAQ) to become "Continuous Supply" products for the Province of Quebec. The SAQ is a state-owned corporation responsible for the trade of alcoholic beverages in the Province of Quebec. Cape Legends CEO Carina Gous: "We are greatly encouraged by the response of the people of Quebec, known for their highly discerning and demanding palates. Given their historical and cultural affinity with France, this achievement is all the more impressive."

"Our wines are already well received in Ontario, which remains a key and growing market for our specialist wines from Stellenbosch, Simondium, Darling and other prime wine-producing areas in South Africa's Western Cape. She said the classical and finessed, Old World styling but single varietal focus and fruit-rich flavours of the wines in the Cape Legends portfolio were finding ready favour in this new market. "The new support for the portfolio mirrors the positive performance in other markets where we trade. Despite the global

surplus that has adversely affected trading amongst producers worldwide across the price spectrum, we have succeeded in growing several key markets, notably Canada, Northern Europe and Africa.”

She added that marketing efforts were being focused on both on-consumption and retail channels. “Cape Legends wines are recognized for their compatibility with a variety of cuisines, from Mediterranean and Northern European to Asian and fusion food.”