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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ...**Hannes van Rensburg: Group Manager - Wine Farms**

Biodiversity agent and Group Manager, Hannes van Rensburg's love for viticulture stems from a life immersed in farming tradition. His father was secretary of the Somerset West farmers association while he was a teacher, his uncle had a wine farm in Rawsonville and some family holidays were spent on a farm rather than at the sea.

"I firmly believe that we are borrowing the land from our future generations. Therefore, we should protect the environment in such a way that we do not demolish it but rather maintain and even build it up so that our kids could still utilise it in future," said Hannes.

Plaisir de Merle, where Hannes lives, and Papkuilsfontein where the award winning Tukulu wines are grown, are leaders in biodiversity management and are currently working towards Champion status.

"Everything we do in our vineyards is to preserve the soil and not damage the environment. The natural vegetation adjacent to the vineyards should also be protected. Mankind must live in harmony with nature and we must protect the biodiversity of the Fynbos and Renosterveld within the Winelands," stresses Hannes.

He is also actively expanding organic wine farming. Papkuilsfontein, on the West Coast has about 20 ha and Plaisir de Merle has 3,5 ha that are fully organic. Another 150 ha is currently being converted to full organic farming at Papkuilsfontein.

Hannes began his career path and gained his extensive wine knowledge at Stellenbosch University where he graduated with a B.Sc in Agriculture with viticulture and viniculture as well as agricultural economics as main subjects. He then went on to complete an Honours degree in agricultural studies with a focus on viniculture.



After finishing at Stellenbosch, he worked for five years at Nietvoorbij Research Institute for Viticulture and Oenology in Stellenbosch, and then moved on to work at Nederburg.

Mentors Prof Chris Orffer and Günter Brözel provided Hannes with invaluable lessons on how to understand the complexity of vines and maximise their potential while reaping the benefits of quality grapes and producing great wine.

After 35 years in the Wine Industry, there have been a number of career highlights such as his election as the President of the South African Society for Oenology and Viticulture. Amongst his greatest accolades is the honour of Chevalier de Vignerons des Bordeaux.

Hannes has been fortunate to partake in leading high profile overseas wine tours and serves on several viticulture committees and boards.

Even though he has travelled all over the world, the allure of the Old World wines is still a favourite and he notes France as top of the list.

When it comes to cultivars, Sauvignon Blanc is one of his favourites and when asked to describe himself as a wine, he chose "a fresh and fruity Sauvignon Blanc with not too high an alcohol content."

When not busy in the vineyards he likes to relax at the sea fishing or hunting inland and otherwise playing social golf. His supportive wife works in the wine industry alongside him as a tour guide and in wine sales, and Hannes draws great satisfaction from this synthesis between living and working on the land.

His passion to try new ideas and techniques in concert with a theoretically sound and practical approach and a solid economic basis, is a formula that works and ensures exciting prospects for winemaking in the Cape.

His maxim 'in vino veritas' or 'truth in wine' encompasses the unbreakable bond Hannes has with the land he tends and the legacy he is unfolding.

AWARDS AND RATINGS



Rave reviews in Oz for two Cape Legends Shiraz stalwarts

Winestate, one of Australia's leading wine publications has ranked two Cape Legends Shiraz wines, Alto Shiraz 2005 and Stellenzicht Syrah 2002 amongst its Best Wines of 2008.

The Alto Shiraz was awarded 4½ stars with the Stellenzicht Syrah garnering four stars. Winestate describes the Alto Shiraz a "perfectly complete wine with nothing that shouldn't be there and nothing missing".

The Stellenzicht Syrah is described as a true food wine with its "stylish nose of nicely integrated confectionery fruit and cedary oak" and its "seamless and developed palate but has retained the lovely fruit characters."

Decanter showers stars over Cape Legends in SA Rhone varietal tasting

Five Cape Legends Shiraz wines have featured prominently in the Decanter South African Rhone Varietal panel tasting. The results, just published in Decanter, one of the definitive wine publications in the United Kingdom, feature two Stellenzicht wines, Golden Triangle Shiraz 2005 and Stellenzicht Syrah 2003, as well as Lomond Cat's Tail Shiraz 2006 amongst the 4-star recipients. The wines that were awarded three stars are Alto Shiraz 2005 and Lomond Conebush Shiraz 2006.



NEWS FROM THE FARMS

Neethlingshof Merlot and pasta alla Carne SA

Giorgio Nava, well known chef and proprietor of Cape Town's award winning 95 Keerom, who has just opened his second restaurant – Carne SA – recommends Neethlingshof Merlot as the ideal taste partner for one of his signature pasta dishes.

Dedicated entirely to meat as is evident from its Italian name, Carne SA is a carnivore's paradise serving a unique offering of the finest cuts. Giorgio recommends the Neethlingshof Merlot 2005 with his oven baked Ostrich Lasagne.

"The lightness and gentle fruitiness of the wine lends itself to this delicate yet flavoursome dish," says Giorgio who is known for his authenticity and single mindedness when it comes to using only the finest, freshest ingredients.



The slight gaminess of the ostrich melds wonderfully with the ample ripe berries of this full-bodied wine with its soft tannins and velvety texture.

Buon appetito!

Salad days with Hill&Dale Sauvignon Blanc

The Hill&Dale recipe and wine pairing challenge, run in association with www.food24.co.za, focuses on Sauvignon Blanc and salads during March. With over 300 000 unique monthly impressions Hill&Dale Sauvignon Blanc will be top of mind amongst food lovers especially with a case of wine up for grabs for the best salad recipe!

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Not for sale to persons under the age of 18.

The advertisement features a woman in a white dress sitting on a grassy hill under a blue sky. A bottle of Hill & Dale Sauvignon Blanc is prominently displayed in the foreground.

Flat Roof Manor lets the cat out of the bag with tall cat's tales

Flat Roof Manor's 'purrfect' on-line promotion in association with the trendy fashion and lifestyle www.channel24.co.za and www.woman24.co.za give their 350 000 site visitors the opportunity to win a case of wine during March for the funniest cat story.



NEWS FROM ABROAD

Congratulations Janåke!

We would like to congratulate Janåke Johansson of our Swedish agents - Janåke Wine Group – for becoming the first individual to receive the prestigious Allt om Vin Jubileums Diplom 1998 – 2008 for his career achievements.

“We are particularly proud that Janåke received the award ‘for his inexhaustible enthusiasm, especially in guiding South Africa to the Swedish market’,” said Cape Legends Marketing Manager, Deidre Samson.

DISTELL • P.O. Box 184 • Aan-de-Wagenweg •; Stellenbosch • 7599 • South Africa
Tel: + 27 21 809-7000 • Fax: +27 21 882-9575
Email: info@capelegends.co.za • Web: www.capelegends.co.za