



KAPWEINE

The Home of South African Wines

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Big results for 'little kiss': Bizoe's Henrietta makes Wine Enthusiast top 100 list

Friday, 02 November 2012: Highly respected publication Wine Enthusiast USA has confirmed the inclusion of SA producer Bizoe wines in its top 100 list for Henriëttä 2010, a white Bordeaux-style blend.

Despite its tiny production run of 450 cases in a leased space at a cellar in Franschhoek, Henriëttä has wowed the critics since it was released. Wine Spectator awarded the wine 92 points, noting its "warm aromas of lemon pound cake...creamy-textured verbena, brioche, persimmon and white peach flavours that glide through to the light toast-kissed finish".

Bizoe, from the term meaning 'little kiss' in French, is the handiwork of Rikus Neethling, a Benoni lad born and bred, who earned a cricket bursary at Tuks University which he used to begin his career in winemaking. Rikus conceived the idea of creating iconic wines with little infrastructure while working at a co-operative wine cellar. He began by purchasing the best barrels he could afford, and searched for a cellar to lease.

Henriëttä began when Rikus tasted Semillon in Franschhoek at a vintner famed for the cultivar, while showing some tourists around Franschhoek. Purchasing an allotment of the precious grapes, Rikus knew he had the perfect blending partner for the Sauvignon Blanc he had sourced from an Elgin farm. Using wild yeast fermentation, Rikus's aim was to create a wine of French-style linearity and elegance, rather than a powerhouse blockbuster. As the wines matured in barrel and Rikus began to blend, he knew he had a winner on his hands.

From the initial vintage, 2008, the wine was a sell-out success, scoring 4 ½ stars in the authoritative Platter's South African Wine Guide. The following vintage, 2009 scored 89 points in Wine Enthusiast, whileⁱⁱⁱ

2012 TOP12WINES WHITE WINES FINAL / Results:

1. Bizoe Henrietta 2011
- White Blends
2. Sumaridge Chardonnay 2010
- Chardonnay
3. Quoin Rock Nicobar Sauvignon Blanc 2009
- Sauvignon Blanc
4. Rudera Robusto Chenin Blanc 2009
- Chenin Blanc
5. Lynx Viognier 2012
- Viognier

6. Mooiplaas Houmoed Single Vineyard Chenin Blanc 2009

- Chenin Blanc

7. Painted Wolf Roussane 2011

- Rhone Varietals

8. Radford Dale Viognier 2011

- Viognier

9. Rall White 2011

- White Blends

10. Hamilton Russel Chardonnay 2011

- Chardonnay

10. Landau du Val Semillon Private Selection 2009

- Semillon

12. Thelema Sutherland Rhine Riesling 2009

- Riesling

13. Howard Booysen Riesling 2011

- Riesling

14. Lance Bouma La Traviatta 2009

- Rhone Varietals

15. Neil Ellis Sauvignon Blanc 2011

- Sauvignon Blanc