



**K A P W E I N E**

The Home of South African Wines

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Montag – Freitag 9.00 – 18.00  
Donnerstag 9.00 – 20.00  
Samstag 10.00 – 16.00

## Cape Classique Challenge 2013

Ueber 100 MCC Cape Classique Schaumweine stellten sich der Competition. Lesen Sie den Bericht zu den Resultaten und schauen Sie sich die Bewertungstabelle am Ende des PDFs an.

Der Boschendal Grand Cuvée Brut 2009 gewinnt die Jahrgangs MCC Kategorie bravouereus mit 93.3 Punkten und ist der höchstbewertete Schaumwein des ganzen Wettbewerbs!

Amorim Tsogo Sun Cap Classique Challenge

JUDGES: Allan Mullins CWM (Chair), Neil Pendock, Jenny Ratcliffe-Wright CWM, Cathy Marston, Giorgio Meletiou, Jaume Gramona Marti.

COORDINATOR: Miguel Chan of Tsogo Sun



Methode Cap Classique (MCC) is the name given to South African sparkling wines made in the "champagne method", in which wine undergoes a second fermentation in the bottle. This is the 11th year that Amorim Cork have sponsored the challenge.

The local judges were joined on the panel by Jaume Gramona Marti, the chairman of the Spanish Cava Association. Cava being Spanish sparkling wine made in the "champagne method."

In 1992, the Cap Classique Association (CCA) was established with 14 members. Currently it has over 90 members with Pieter 'Bubbles' Ferreira of Graham Beck Wines the chairman.

As consumers discover the delights of Methode Cap Classique sales are soaring and more and more wineries are producing wines with a bubble. Last year there were 70 entries for the Challenge while this year 100 bubbles were put before the judges.

Judging was done using a 100 point system. Seven MCCs received double gold medals and a certificate for scoring 90 points and over, while 25 were awarded gold medals for scoring between 85 and 90 points.

The obvious question to ask was whether the quality of MCCs had kept pace with the growth in quantity and maintained the improvement noted in last year's Amorim MCC Challenge. The results suggested that it had. The judges agreed and were unanimous in their praise of the category's consistency and the excellence of many of the wines.

There were noticeably fewer disappointing MCCs than last year. I feel that this is due to newer producers gaining experience both in the cellar and in choosing cooler, more suitable vineyards for their grapes. Grapes for good MCC wines need to ripen as slowly as possible and must be harvested at the optimum time. MCCs made from grapes that are harvested too early will be lean and acidic and harvesting too late will result in dull and flabby wines.



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finish.

I have also been very impressed at the willingness with which established MCC winemakers have given advice and help to new producers.

The most notable feature of the challenge was how well many of the MCCs had aged. Wines in the Museum Class (open to wines older than 2008) and older examples in the Vintage Brut Class stood out for their complexity and depth of flavour. This was in contrast to the earlier MCCs, whose vivacity and sparkle did not last much beyond 2 to 3 years.

2009 was a standout vintage for still wines and it proved to be the same for MCCs all the vintage classes (except obviously the Museum class) were won by MCCs from 2009.

The reason that some of the MCCs were scored down was high levels of acidity and noticeable oak flavours. The top wines showed great balance, depth of flavour, a minute and persistent mousse and a long

#### **THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES.**

BLANC DE BLANC. [29 wines. 7 Non-Vintage, 22 Vintage].

**WINNER BLANC DE BLANC VINTAGE: RICKETY BRIDGE BLANC DE BLANC 2009.**

**WINNER BLANC DE BLANC NON-VINTAGE: COLMANT**

Blanc de Blanc MCCs are made solely from white grapes, usually Chardonnay. This category has performed well in the past but was rather less impressive this year. A number of the wines were dull with little flavour or over acidic. There was noticeable greenness in some wines while others displayed over oaking.

ROSÉ. [20 wines. 6 Non-Vintage, 14 Vintage]

**WINNER ROSÉ VINTAGE: GRAHAM BECK ROSÉ 2009.**

**WINNER ROSÉ NON-VINTAGE: GRAHAM BECK ROSÉ.**

A category that was polarised between outstanding wines and mediocre wines. Colours varied from a faint hint of pink to a deep rosy colour. Rosé bubbly has become particularly popular recently and although some were charming with pleasing elegance others seemed to have been rushed onto the market.

**WINNER MUSEUM CLASS: SIMONSIG KAAPSE VONKEL 2007. [13 wines]**

Without a doubt this was the class that got the judges most excited. A few of the wines showed touches of oxidation but most had aged venerably.

Simonsig were fitting winners having produced the first "champagne style" sparkling wine in 1971 and being a model of consistency since then. They won the first Amorim MCC challenge in 2002 and have won it twice since then.



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BRUT [38 wines. 11 Non-Vintage, 27 Vintage]

**WINNER BRUT VINTAGE: BOSCHENDAL GRANDE CUVÉE 2009.**

**WINNER BRUT NON-VINTAGE: COLMANT.**

Although this was a category that ranged from the ordinary to the sublime, there were far more of the latter. Some were scored down for having too little flavour or too much acid. The majority showed yeastiness, good rich flavours on the nose and the palate and a persistent mousse.

The vintage wines followed a similar pattern with the older wines again showing particularly well.

It is interesting to note that to qualify as Methode Cap Classique the wines must be in the bottle on their fermentation lees for at least 9 months. At the end of 2013 a new qualification system with 2 tiers will be introduced. The first tier will require at least 12 months on the fermentation lees and can be made up of any grape varieties. The second tier will need to spend 24 months on the lees and need to consist of the 3 varieties used in Champagne, i.e. Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier.

To sum up, it is clear that Methode Cap Classique has come a long way since the formation of the Association in 1992. The overall quality was pleasingly high and there was proof that the better MCCs repay ageing, both on the lees and in the bottle.



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WINERY BRAND		VINT	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	AV SCORE	CATEGORY		
61	8	Boschendal Grande Cuvee	2009	Franschhoek	93,3	Winner Brut Vintage and Overall Winner - highest scoring wine	Brut Vintage
25	5	Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel	2007	Stellenbosch	91,8	Winner Museum Class	Museum Class
17	1	Graham Beck	2009	Robertson	91,8	Winner Rose Vintage	Rose Vintage
27	7	Moreson Solitaire	2005	Franschhoek	90,5	Double Gold	Museum Class
35	3	Colmant		Franschhoek	90,4	Winner Brut N/V	Brut Non Vintage
88	2	Rickety Bridge	2009	Franschhoek	90,0	Winner Blanc de Blancs Vintage	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
63	10	Bon Courage Brut Reserve	2008	Robertson	90,0	Double Gold	Brut Vintage
58	5	Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel	2009	Stellenbosch	89,7	Gold	Brut Vintage
67	4	Villiera Monro	2008	Stellenbosch	89,7	Gold	Brut Vintage
62	9	Domaine des Dieux Claudia	2008	Walker Bay	89,5	Gold	Brut Vintage
5	5	Graham Beck		Robertson	89,2	Winner Rose N/V	Rose Non Vintage
53	10	Laborie	2010	Paarl	88,7	Gold	Brut Vintage
57	4	Ayama	2009	Paarl	88,7	Gold	Brut Vintage
87	1	Wetevrede The Ring	2009	Robertson	88,5	Gold	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
20	4	Mount Babylon Pioneer	2007	Walker Bay	88,5	Gold	Museum Class
50	7	Plaisir de Merle Grand Brut	2010	Paarl	88,2	Gold	Brut Vintage
91	5	Laborie	2009	Paarl	87,7	Gold	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
69	6	Kumkani Infiniti	2007	Stellenbosch	87,7	Gold	Brut Vintage
52	9	Charles Fox	2010	Elgin	87,5	Gold	Brut Vintage
64	1	De Wetshof Estate	2008	Robertson	87,3	Gold	Brut Vintage
83	7	Constantia Uitsig	2009	Constantia	87,2	Gold	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
95	9	Cederberg	2008	Cederberg	87,2	Gold	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
26	6	Kumkani Infiniti	2007	Stellenbosch	87,2	Gold	Museum Class
94	8	Bon Courage Jacques Bruere	2008	Robertson	87,0	Gold	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
21	1	Bon Courage Jacques Bruere	2007	Robertson	87,0	Gold	Museum Class
84	8	Groot Constantia	2009	Constantia	86,8	Gold	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
85	9	Graham Beck	2009	Robertson	86,5	Gold	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
45	2	De Grendel	2011	Durbanville	86,3	Gold	Brut Vintage
32	1	Bon Courage Rose	2007		86,3	Gold	Museum Class
66	3	Morgenhof Reserve	2008	Stellenbosch	86,2	Gold	Brut Vintage
68	5	Desiderius	2008	Stellenbosch	86,2	Gold	Brut Vintage
24	4	Windfall	2007	Robertson	86,2	Gold	Museum Class
74	5	Colmant		Franschhoek	85,7	Winner Blanc de Blancs N/V	Blanc de Blancs - Non Vintage
28	8	Krone Borealis Cuvee	2004	Tulbagh	85,7		Museum Class
60	7	Saronsberg Brut	2009	Tulbagh	85,5		Brut Vintage
55	2	Sumaridge The Wayfarer	2009	Walker Bay	85,5		Rose Vintage
75	6	Moreson 10 months		Franschhoek	85,3		Blanc de Blancs - Non Vintage
78	2	Org de Rac	2011	Piketberg	85,3		Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
82	6	Laborie	2010	Paarl	85,0		Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
34	2	Alvi's Drift AD Thornlands		Worcester	85,0		Brut Non Vintage
54	1	Muratie Lady Alice	2010	Stellenbosch	85,0		Brut Vintage
10	4	Allee Bleue	2011	Franschhoek	85,0		Rose Vintage
3	3	Boschendal Le Grand Pavillon		Franschhoek	84,8		Rose Non Vintage

WINERY BRAND		VINT	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	AV SCORE	CATEGORY	
76	7	Moreson 14 months		Franschhoek	84,7	Blanc de Blancs - Non Vintage
98	7	Villiera Brut Natural Zero Dos	2009	Stellenbosch	84,7	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
56	3	Hout Bay Vineyards	2009	Hout Bay	84,3	Brut Vintage
7	1	Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel	2012	Stellenbosch	84,3	Rose Vintage
18	2	Domaine des Dieux Sharon	2008	Walker Bay	84,3	Rose Vintage
80	4	Dieu Donne	2010	Franschhoek	84,2	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
81	5	De Wet Cravate	2010	Robertson	84,2	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
51	8	Cathedral Cellar	2010	Paarl	84,0	Brut Vintage
36	4	Graham Beck		Robertson	83,7	Brut Non Vintage
39	7	Graham Beck Magnum		Robertson	83,5	Brut Non Vintage
6	6	Pongracz		Stellenbosch	83,5	Rose Non Vintage
70	1	Welbedacht Mon Rene		Wellington	83,3	Blanc de Blancs - Non Vintage
77	1	Darling Cellars	2011	Darling	83,2	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
92	6	Niel Joubert Christine Marie	2009	Paarl	83,2	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
23	3	Viljoensdrift Villion	2007	Robertson	83,2	Museum Class
29	9	Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel	2003	Stellebosch	82,8	Museum Class
42	10	JC Le Roux		Stellenbosch	82,7	Brut Non Vintage
37	5	Van Loveren Christina		Robertson	82,3	Brut Non Vintage
1	1	Groote Post		Darling	82,3	Rose Non Vintage
8	2	Simonsig Exclusive Selection	2012	Stellenbosch	82,2	Rose Vintage
15	9	Steenberg 1682	2010	Constantia	82,2	Rose Vintage
100	9	Wijnskool Veraison		Walker Bay	81,7	Boutique Producer
44	1	Nitida Matriach	2011	Durbanville	81,7	Brut Vintage
2	2	Moreson Pink		Franschhoek	81,3	Rose Non Vintage
12	6	Lourensford	2011	Stellenbosch	81,3	Rose Vintage
14	8	Charles Fox	2010	Elgin	81,3	Rose Vintage
33	1	Quoin Rock		Cape South Coast	81,0	Brut Non Vintage
71	2	Wonderfontein Paul Rene		Robertson	80,8	Blanc de Blancs - Non Vintage
73	4	Pierre Jourdan		Franschhoek	80,7	Blanc de Blancs - Non Vintage
79	3	Genevieve	2010	Walker Bay	80,5	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
46	3	Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel	2011	Stellenbosch	80,3	Brut Vintage
30	10	JC Le Roux Scintilla	2003	Stellebosch	80,3	Museum Class
38	6	Weltevrede Entheos		Robertson	80,2	Brut Non Vintage
40	8	Mooiplaas		Stellenbosch	80,2	Brut Non Vintage
59	6	Krone Borealis Cuvee	2009	Tulbagh	80,2	Brut Vintage
49	6	Groote Post Aurelia	2010	Darling	80,0	Brut Vintage
93	7	Ayama	2008	Paarl	79,5	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
97	11	Simonsig Cuvee Royale	2008	Stellenbosch	79,5	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
48	5	Allée Bleue	2010	Franschhoek	79,2	Brut Vintage
19	3	De Wetshof	2008	Robertson	78,8	Rose Vintage
16	10	Krone Cuvee	2009	Tulbagh	78,5	Rose Vintage

WINERY BRAND		VINT	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	AV SCORE	CATEGORY	
11	5	Leopards Frog Titillation	2011	Stellenbosch	77,8	Rose Vintage
90	4	Sterhuis	2009	Stellenbosch	77,5	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
4	4	Pierre Jourdan Belle Rose		Franschhoek	77,5	Rose Non Vintage
99	8	Packwood Gent	2010	Plettenberg	76,2	Boutique Producer
9	3	Dieu Donne	2011	Franschhoek	76,2	Rose Vintage
43	1	Krone Nicolas Charles Marque 1	NV	Tulbagh	75,7	Brut Non Vintage
41	9	Pongracz		Stellenbosch	75,5	Brut Non Vintage
89	3	Lourensford	2009	Stellenbosch	74,8	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
47	4	Waverley Hills	2010	Tulbagh	74,8	Brut Vintage
13	7	Ayama	2010	Paarl	71,0	Rose Vintage
65	2	Longridge	2008	Stellenbosch	68,2	Brut Vintage
72	3	Hoopenburg Integer		Stellenbosch	62,2	Blanc de Blancs - Non Vintage
86	10	Roodezandt Balthazar	2009	Robertson	-	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
96	10	Leopard Frog Vineyards Tryst	2008	Stellenbosch	-	Blanc de Blancs - Vintage
22	2	Roodezandt Balthazar Brut	2007	Robertson	-	Museum Class
31	1	Weltevrede Philip Jonker	1995	Robertson	-	Museum Class