

Top 20 Pinotage Awards 2010

Wie jedes Jahr werden die Top 10 Pinotage awards vergeben und die 10 weiteren bestplatzierten Weine auserkoren. Viele Neue Gesichter prägen die Gewinnerliste. Grosse Namen der Vergangenheit wie Kanokop, L'Avenir und viele andere mussten dieses Jahr den aufstrebendene Newcomern Platz machen.



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ABSA's Top Ten Pinotages 10 September 2010 by Pinotage Association New & old producers excel at ABSA Top Ten Pinotage Awards

Cape's own home-grown grape variety, Pinotage, has shown some exciting results in this year's Absa Top 10 Pinotage Competition. As David Molyneux-Berry, the international judge at this year's Competition said: "The Pinotage wines I have tasted have shown a huge improvement and a much higher standard has been set."

The results of the 2010 competition show that the tireless efforts by winemakers have paid off and some exciting new "kids on the block" are emerging. The 133 entries are comparable with the numbers of the last couple of years.

In the Absa Top 10 winners, Rijk's Private Cellar has now entered their fifth annual Pinotage winner. Six other wineries have achieved their second Absa Top 10 rating and there are three very exciting first-time winners. The first time winners include Welbedacht owned by Schalk Burger and Sons and Welgevallen Kelder which is attached to the University of Stellenbosch. This is quite an achievement as Welgevallen is at the heart of Pinotage's history. It was on this farm that Perold's four vines gave birth to the now world-class Pinotage cultivar. Wildekrans Wine Estate situated in the new ward of Botrivier is the third newcomer to the Absa Top 10.

The 2010 Absa Top 10 Pinotage Competition winners in alphabetical order are:

- Altydgedacht Pinotage 2009 (Durbanville),
- Anura Reserve Pinotage 2008 (Paarl),
- Fairview Pinotage 2009 (Coastal),
- Flagstone Writer's Block Pinotage 2008 (Worcester vineyards),
- Kaapzicht Steytler Pinotage 2007 (Stellenbosch),
- Lyngrove Platinum Pinotage 2008 (Stellenbosch),
- Rijk's Reserve Pinotage 2006 (Tulbagh),



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- Welbedacht Estate Pinotage 2008 (Wellington),
- Die Laan Pinotage 2008 (Stellenbosch) from the Welgevallen Kelder and
- Wildekrans Barrel Selection 2008 (Botrivier).

Of this year's winners the oldest vintage is from Rijk's Private Cellar (2006), followed by Kaapzicht Estate (2007). Six of the wines are from the 2008 vintage and two from 2009. Five of this year's ten runners-up are also from the 2009 vintage. This proves that Pinotage can show absolute top quality after only one or two years in the bottle, while it can also mature further and reach its peak after three or four years. Altydgedacht Landgoed, Baarsma South Africa (Lyngrove) and Flagstone Winery have back-to-back winners, while Fairview and Anura were in the Top 10 in 2008 and were runners-up last year. Kaapzicht Steytler's Pinotage has consistently been in the top 20 over the last ten years and has won twice.

This year only three of the winning wines are from the Stellenbosch area, usually the major supplier of winning wines. This is an indication that quality Pinotage is also being produced in other parts of the Western Cape. The rest are wines of origin from the Coastal area, Durbanville, Paarl, Tulbagh, Walker Bay (Botrivier), Wellington and Worcester (although Flagstone is based in Stellenbosch, the grapes came from vineyards in Worcester). The fact that top quality wines are being produced in varying climatic conditions and differing terroirs, is extremely encouraging for South Africa's unique selling point overseas where the demand for good quality Pinotage is continually increasing.

This is the fourteenth year that Absa has sponsored the Top 10 Pinotage Competition and their sponsorship and support for Pinotage have grown enormously over this period.

"We are proud to be involved in this truly South African cultivar. Through our sponsorship, we have aimed to assist winemakers to improve the quality of the wine, but we also pay tribute to the tireless efforts of the wine farmers, winemakers and viticulturists. Our sponsorship of the Absa Top 10 Pinotage Competition also extends to show our support for the wine industry, an important export product of South Africa," says Ernst Janovsky, General Manager of Absa's AgriBusiness.

The judges of the 2010 Absa Top 10 Pinotage Competition were Duimpie Bayly, Dave Hughes, David Molyneux-Berry, Gert Boerssen, Susan Erasmus, Jonathan Steyn and Hannes Storm.

The ten runners-up to the Top 10 are (in alphabetical order): De Waal Pinotage 2007, Diemersdal Pinotage 2009, Diemersdal Reserve 2009, Fleur du Cap Pinotage 2008 (Bergkelder), Indalo Pinotage 2007 (Swartland Wynkelder), Koelenbosch Pinotage 2008, Maastricht Pinotage 2009, Rooiberg Winery Pinotage 2009, Spier Private Collection Pinotage 2007 and Windmeul Reserve Pinotage 2009.

Presentation packages of the 2010 Absa Top 10 Pinotage wines will soon be available for sale through the Wine-of-the-Month-Club. Tel 021 709 6300 `begin_of_the_skype_highlighting` 021 709 6300 `end_of_the_skype_highlighting` E-mail: wineclub@wineofthemonth.co.za. The presentation packs will include 2 videos and a Pinotage booklet.

For further information regarding Pinotage and the South African Pinotage Association, visit the Association's website www.pinotage.co.za



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