

Die John Platter 5* Weine 2009

Und wieder ist es soweit die 5 Stern Weine des Weinführers John Platter 2009 sind auserkoren worden.

Dieses Jahr wurden ganze 33 Weine mit 5 Sternen ausgezeichnet. Das sind doch um ca. 50% mehr als in den vergangenen Jahren. Ein deutliches Zeichen, dass die Breite an Top-Weinen in Südafrika immer weiter zunimmt – und das ist auch gut so. Wir gratulieren Kanonkop zu dem verdienten „winery of the year award“.



Platter's

South African Wine Guide



Media release

Thursday, 13 November 2008

29th edition of Platter's Guide unwrapped

The 2009 edition of Platter's Guide, South Africa's original and still best-selling wine annual, was unwrapped in Stellenbosch today (13 November) along with the names of the five-star wines and the coveted awards for Superquaffer, Wine and Winery of the Year.

Now in its 29th year, Platter's is the definitive guide to who's who and what's what in South African wine, with comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of most currently available brands, as well as wine cellars, winelands restaurants and accommodation, tourist attractions and more.

For the new edition, the guide's tasting panel reviewed some 6 400 individual wines and in the process identified 85 wines as potentially worthy of the maximum five star rating. After a further round of tasting, a record 33 labels received the sought-after top grading, making them truly the crème de la crème of South African wines for 2009. The **five star recipients** are:



Cabernet Franc

- Buitenverwachting 2005

Cabernet Sauvignon

- Boekenhoutskloof 2006
- Kanonkop 2004
- Thelema The Mint 2006

Pinot Noir

- Meerlust 2004

Pinotage

- Simonsig Redhill 2006

Shiraz

- Boekenhoutskloof 2006
- De Trafford 2006
- Eagles' Nest 2006
- Hartenberg The Stork 2005
- Signal Hill Clos d'Oranje 2006

Red Blends

- De Toren Fusion V 2006
- De Trafford CWG Perspective 2005
- Kaapzicht Steytler Vision 2005
- Morgenster 2005
- Vilafonté Series C 2006
- Waterford CWG Auction Reserve 2004

Chardonnay

- Ataraxia 2007
- Jordan CWG Auction Reserve 2006
- Uva Mira Single Vineyard 2007



Chenin Blanc

- Ken Forrester The FMC 2006

Sauvignon Blanc

- Quoin Rock The Nicobar 2007

Semillon

- Constantia Uitsig 2007

White Blends

- Cape Point Isliedh 2007
- Nederburg Ingenuity White 2007
- Sterhuis Astra White 2006
- Tokara White 2007

Dessert Wine, Unfortified

- Fleur du Cap Noble Late Harvest 2007
- Klein Constantia Rhine Riesling Noble Late Harvest 2006
- Tulbagh Mountain Vineyards Vin Pi Two NV

Dessert Wine, Fortified

- Mons Ruber Muscat d'Alexandrie Jerepigo 1997

Port

- Boplaas Vintage Reserve 2006
- De Krans Vintage Reserve 2006

In the second round of tasting for five stars, the label which emerges as the clear leader is singled out for special praise as the **Wine of the Year**. For the 2009 edition, the front runner (and only the guide's 5th Wine of the Year) is the **Kanonkop Cabernet Sauvignon 2004**.

The guide's other major award, **Winery of the Year**, is made by the editor after considering a variety of consumer-driven criteria, the aim being to spotlight a winery which epitomises the best of South African winegrowing today.

'An eagerness to innovate and experiment has been key to uplifting the image of SA wine in recent years,' comments editor Philip van Zyl. 'But, besides highlighting the new and the novel, we feel it is important to recognise those cellars who quietly go about the perhaps more difficult task of making incremental improvements in vineyard and cellar, and are thus better able to consistently produce exceptional wines in commercially significant quantities.'

'In this context, one winery deserves special recognition. For decades it has maintained exemplary standards, remained focused and true to its terroir amid the vagaries of fashion, and produced classic, world-class wines even in less conducive vintages. It is our privilege to honour **Kanonkop Estate** as Winery of the Year 2009. Fittingly, their Cabernet Sauvignon was a five-star wine in our very first edition and today, almost 30 years on, it still shines as one of SA wine's brightest stars. Long may it continue to do so.'

In a continuing focus on highlighting value for money, Platter's tasters identify a number of entry-level wines which are exceptionally drinkable and well priced. The best of these, like the five star candidates, go into a second round of tasting to select the **Superquaffer of the Year**. For the second year running, **Simonsig Chenin Blanc 2008** heads the list of ultra-easy sippers.

The names of the other top quaffers appear in the new guide under the heading 'Wines of the Year', along with the 33 five stars, 52 Highly Recommended wines (which missed five stars but are nonetheless extremely fine and collectible in their own right), and a much-expanded selection of 140 reds, whites and fortifieds showing particular potential for cellaring. These appear under the banner '**Buy Now, Drink Later**'.

New, tourist-friendly features of the 2009 edition include **GPS coordinates** for most wineries open to the public by appointment or at set hours. Also noteworthy are the expanded **top performers** section, which now features the results of 12 top local and international competitions and professional tastings; fully updated **restaurant and accommodation**



guides; expanded and improved **maps**, including a new KwaZulu-Natal section and more detailed coverage of the fast-developing Elgin, Walker Bay and Stanford areas; handy **look-up tables** for all wineries featured in the maps, showing weekend opening times and major visitor amenities (including facilities for families and children, foreign languages spoken, weekend opening times etc); full-colour **photo gallery** showcasing the leisure pursuits of a selection of winelands personalities; latest results of the guide's pioneering **accessibility audit**, aimed at verifying the disabled friendliness of tasting rooms throughout the winelands; descriptions and/or star-ratings for some **6 400 currently available wines**; plus news updates and potted profiles of more than **840 wine producers, merchants and brands**.



These and a host of other facts, figures, lists and reference material are packaged into the same number of pages as last year, quite an accomplishment considering there are **60 new wineries and brands**, and about **400 additional wines**.

The 2009 guide is available from selected retail outlets and the website, www.platteronline.com, from the end of November.

- Tasters for 2009: Michael Fridjhon, Angela Lloyd, Jabulani Ntshangase, Dave Swingler, Mzokhona Mvemve, Ingrid Motteux, Roland Peens, Jörg Pfützner, James Pietersen, Dave Biggs; Master of Wine Cathy van Zyl; and Cape Wine Masters Ginette de Fleuriot, Tim James, Christine Rudman, Irina von Holdt and Meryl Weaver
- Website: www.platteronline.com

