

The classic balance of South African Pinotage

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close

After the annual new vintage Pinotage tasting of fourteen wines from different regions, wine experts came to the conclusion that South Africa's home grown wine variety shows classic balance between complex flavours and accessibility.

The tasting was presented on 8 June at Doornbosch in Stellenbosch to members of the Pinotage Association, wine experts and wine writers in order to evaluate the quality produced by the 2005 vintage.

Australian winemaker Chris Kelly, who now lives and works in South Africa, emphasized the fact that wines which are great drinks must also be rewarded and that Pinotage grapes are ideal for this style of wine. Chris said many of the 2005 Pinotage wines that were tasted provided wonderful base fruit.

According to internationally acclaimed cellar master and chairman of the Pinotage Association, Beyers Truter, 2005 is one of the best vintages ever for Pinotage wines due to the difficult weather conditions during the ripening and harvesting season which created small grapes with intensive colour and flavour.

In his summary of the new vintage tasting well known wine judge Mike Louw was excited about the fact that the wines from all the regions delivered excellent complexity of flavours.

Board member of the Pinotage Association and cellar master Charles Hopkins came to the conclusion that the 2005 vintage provided a variety of wines ranging from so-called blockbusters to fruit driven, elegant and very drinkable. Charles coordinated the tasting.

The red wines are currently in tanks and oak barrels for further maturation before being bottled later this year or next year.

The appointed wine cellars which provided Pinotage wines for the new vintage tasting were Bon Cap (Eilandia/Robertson), Daschbosch (Goudini), Fleur du Cap (Stellenbosch), Diemersdal (Durbanville), L'Avenir (Stellenbosch), Lourensford (Somerset-Wes), Lutzville (Lutzville Valley), Môreson (Franschhoek), Neethlingshof (Stellenbosch), Nuy (Nuy/Worcester), Oude Compagnies Post (Tulbagh), Pulpit Rock (Swartland), Stellenzicht (Stellenbosch) and Sumaridge (Walker Bay).

"The versatility of the Pinotage wine grape variety enables it to supply wines with a classic balance and that must always be what we strive for. It was very exciting to observe that the young winemakers are experimenting with Pinotage in an aggressive manner, which means that quality will always be explored to the full and dullness will never enter.

"Seventy five percent of a wine's success is the marketing thereof and the winemakers play a very important role. It is on the agenda of the Pinotage Association to this year take a team of winemakers to various countries abroad and voice the versatile quality of our homegrown variety to the world," says Beyers Truter.

Caption for photograph:

From left are Emile Schoch of Lutzville Vineyards, Ilse van Dijk of Stellenzicht, Susan Wessels of Neethlingshof and Charles Hopkins, cellar master of Graham Beck Wines and presenter of the tasting.