



Len Maseko

IRISH poet Oscar Wilde might have had in mind an act of someone blabbering in a parrot-fashion when, speaking of consistency, he said: "Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative."

Surely there is nothing as painfully boring as someone repeatedly speaking mechanically or droning on in monotones.

But then consistency is a good thing when it denotes a pattern of sterling performance, much in the same vein as British actor-song writer Jim Dale's observation: "Good acting is consistency of performance."

So has been the quality of Journey's End wines from the estate of the same name, situated in Sir Lowry's Pass Village, near Somerset West, on the Helderberg wine route.

Consistency has been their forte – rather than the curse of the unimaginative – with all their Journey's End vintages scoring no less than 4 stars in John Platter's wine guide since inception.

Together with the Gabb family, winemaker Leon Esterhuizen are focusing on producing quality-driven wines in small quantities in a boutique estate blessed with picturesque views down to the Cape Point and the Indian Ocean in the Cape winelands.

Journey's End small production is in stark contract with the family's earlier wine, Kumala, which they founded and developed into the largest-selling South African wine way back in 1990.

Journey's End owner Roger Gabb says he is past the days of mass production and the family was now concentrating on producing boutique wines on a smaller scale.

A distinguishing feature of their white wines – from Sauvignon Blanc to Chardonnay – is the



MAIN MAN: Vinyard manager Paul Fourie with daughter Pippa and Milo.

Consistency forte of Journey's End



Leon Esterhuizen



Roger Gabb

voluptuous fruit and intense flavours which reward the palate with an keylegant structure and

after-taste.

The reds – Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon – take on a European or Old World style with subtle and creamy notes on the palate.

Though palpable, the fruit is understated behind a solid layer of berry flavours with a lingering after-taste. The estate's entry-level range of white and red blends range in price between R55 and R60 while their upper offering will set you back in the region of R120 and R160.

My favourites were the 2008 Chardonnay vintage (R120) and 2006 Shiraz (R120). To accompany the Chardonnay, Esterhuizen suggests cheese, pastas and seafood. Meanwhile, Shiraz paired well with a basted, juicy beef roast.

FACT FILE

John Platter's Wine Guide ratings of Journey's End Wines
2004: Journey's End Chardonnay 2002 – 5 Stars
Journey's End Cabernet Sauvignon 2001 – 4 Stars
2005/6: Journey's End Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 – 4 Stars
2007: Journey's End Chardonnay 2005 – 4 ½ Stars
Journey's End Merlot 2005 – 4 Stars
2008: Journey's End Chardonnay 2006 – 4 ½ Stars
Journey's End Destination Chardonnay 2006 – 4 ½ Stars
Journey's End The Cape Doctor Shiraz 2005 – 4 Stars
2009: Journey's End Chardonnay 2006 – 4 ½ Stars
Journey's End Destination Chardonnay 2006 – 4 ½ Stars
Journey's End Merlot 2005 – 4 Stars
Journey's End The Cape Doctor Shiraz 2005 – 4 Stars
2010: Journey's End Chardonnay 2007 – 4 Stars
Journey's End Destination Chardonnay 2006 – 4 ½ Stars