

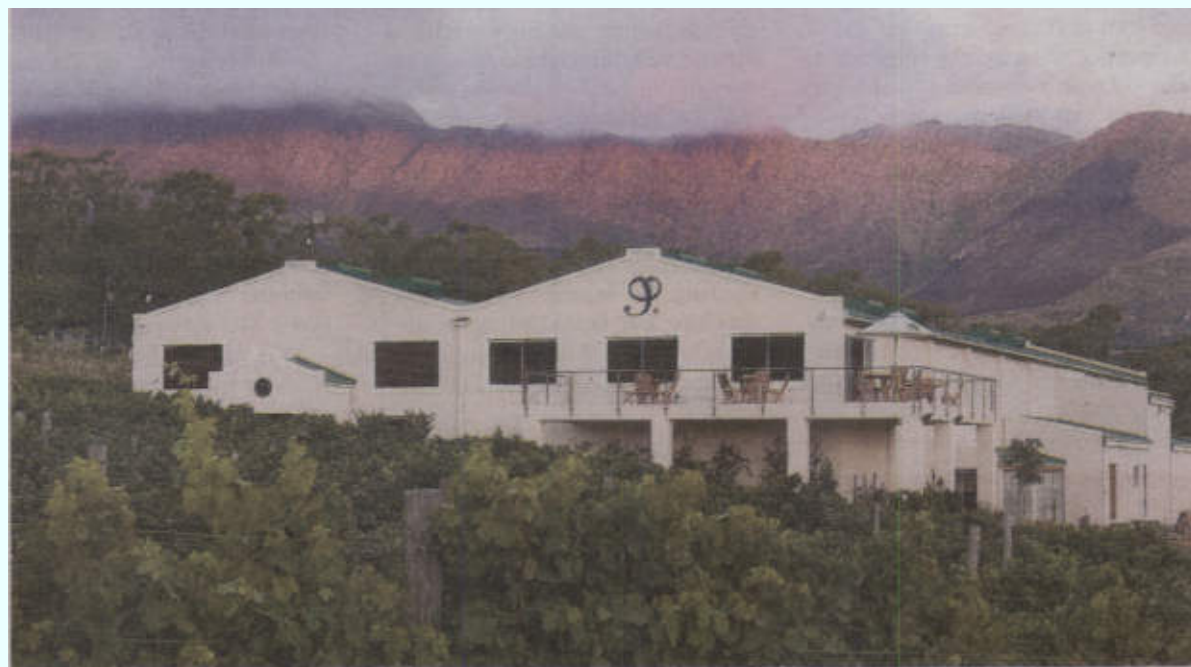
# Journey's End strides towards excellence

**JOURNEY'S END, SITUATED** on the mountain slopes above Sir Lowry's Pass Village, took several huge strides towards becoming a premium Helderberg boutique winery earlier this month.

The winery recently opened its modern 250-ton cellar and

wine-tasting centre and announced the co-acquisition of neighbouring farm Mount Rozier Estate, together with neighbour Andre Parker of the wine farm Highberry.

Owners since 1995, the Gabb family, from Shropshire in the UK, decided in order to best pre-



The impressive and modern 250-ton cellar and wine-tasting centre at Journey's End.

serve grape quality - through less transportation and minimal intervention - the practical solution was to build a cellar in the heart of the vineyards.

So this is precisely what they did. As from the 2010 harvest, the grapes will be transported no further than a few hundred metres.

Now, from the stylish glass-fronted tasting centre adjacent to the cellar, one can also be engulfed by the surrounding splendour of the panorama, looking out on the mountain backdrop and rugged coastline of False Bay, all the way to Cape Point.

To celebrate the opening of these new facilities, Roger and Annie Gabb and their son Rollo, together with winemaker Leon Esterhuizen and vineyard manager Paul Fourie, hosted an elegant launch event on February 4.

Friends, family, locals, wine aficionados, esteemed industry leaders and members of the wine trade and media were invited to the unveiling.

Situated on the South-west facing slopes of the famous Schaapenberg hills, the vineyards have excellent soils and the cool South-easterly summer winds extend the ripening season of the vines and keep them dry and free of most insects.

As Rollo Gabb, Roger's son

The stylish interior of the new wine tasting centre at Journey's End.



and marketing director of Journey's End wines, puts it in an interview with men's magazine, *Esquire UK*: "We've only got ourselves to blame if the wine's no good."

Using only Journey's End grapes, no more than 6 000 cases of wines are produced in a typical vintage.

The maiden Journey's End Chardonnay 2002 was awarded five stars in the 2004 edition of the Platter wine guide, the first white wine, new to Platter, to ever achieve this honour.

Roger Gabb is widely reputed in the Cape wine industry as the founder and chairman of Western Wines who, in the 1990s, developed Kumala into SA's largest

export brand.

Ever since purchasing the farm, the Gabb family has invested heavily in the vineyards and recently co-purchased the neighbouring Mount Rozier Estate, adding 14 hectares of vineyards and a fully-operational equestrian centre. Their aim is to create top-quality single-vineyard and appellation wines.

Personalised wine-tastings with the winemaker, Leon Esterhuizen, are available by appointment only, from Monday to Saturday, 09:00 until 17:00. Contact: Journey's End on (021) 858-1929 or Leon Esterhuizen on 082 612 7602 or [info@journeysend.co.za](mailto:info@journeysend.co.za) or the website [www.journeysend.co.za](http://www.journeysend.co.za).