

## Wine Route joins forces with veteran Italian eatery

Newly-opened Agriturismo restaurant, La Masseria, between Somerset West and Stellenbosch, will be joining forces with the Helderberg Wine Route to bring the best of "local" to lovers of food and wine.

Run by slow food exponent, Miki Ciman and her husband Lorenzo, the re-establishment of the venue is a dream come true. "After leaving the area when we closed our restaurant on Dornier in the early 2000s, we've always wanted to return to our roots against the Helderberg," says Miki.

Known for their home-cooked Italian food – which is based on fresh, mostly organic seasonal ingredients and their hand-crafted cheeses and smoked meats – the restaurant is based in an old homestead visible on the R44, near the Annandale junction.

The menu changes daily, depending on availability of ingredients.

In keeping with their philosophy of supporting producers from the region, Miki is running a monthly wine promotion where a Helderberg winery will get the opportunity to present their wines to restaurant guests. Patrons can taste the wines of the month, and enjoy wine and food pairings, and special events will be built around the wines.

Wineries taking part are Avontuur Estate, Eikendal, Journey's End, Peter Falke, Bilton and Somerbosch, with Yonder Hill, Waterkloof, Vergenoegd, Grangehurst, Lourensford and Romond.

"This campaign forms part of our commitment to getting the Helderberg wines listed with restaurants and accommodation establishments in our area," says wine route chairperson, Margi Hoffe.

