

NewsBites

1 NEW CHAIRMAN for CWG

The Cape Winemakers Guild (CWG) announced its new management committee for 2011, with Louis Strydom of Ernie Els Wines taking over the chairmanship from Simonsig's Johan Malan. Renowned for his excellent winemaking principles and enduring dedication to the creation of world-class, quality wines, Strydom is tasked with managing the CWG's affairs for the next two years. "It is a great honour to be elected chairman of the Cape Winemakers Guild and I look forward to the new challenges of an ever-changing organisation during my two-year tenure," said Strydom who will continue his current involvement in the CWG's Protégé Programme and Development Trust in addition to his new responsibilities as chairman.

2 ESPRESSO Port

De Krans, situated in the heart of the Little Karoo, recently added to its range of dessert wines with the release of the De Krans Espresso. Although not a Port, the wine is prepared using the two main Port varietals, Touriga Nacional and Tinta Barocca, and has a sugar content of 92g/l (approximately the same as De Krans' Port wine). The wine underwent extended wood maturation in 300-litre French oak barrels before bottling.

It retails for approximately R55 per bottle. Tel 044 213 3314

3 From cleaner to JETSETTER

Last year, Zelda Petrus, a former cleaner at Steenberg Vineyards, progressed from scrubbing floors to front-of-house sales, earning the recognition of her colleagues and employers. As a reward for her hard work, Steenberg has sent her to California to learn more about wine sales and marketing in the famous Napa Valley. This will be the Retreat-born widow's first-ever trip on an aeroplane and, once in California, she will be exposed to some of the region's top cellars, sales and marketing

specialists. The week-long trip has been sponsored by the Great Wine Capitals, a network of the world's leading wine-producing countries that promote international best practice in the name of advancing standards in wine tourism across the world.

4 INSPIRING the exchange of knowledge

The Thuthukile Skweyiya Western Cape Burgundy Wine Exchange programme that launched in 2001 has continued to inspire wine farm employees, giving them the opportunity to reach their potential. Each year, 10 farm workers from the wine industry are sent on a four-week training programme – focusing on viticulture and oenology – that aims to provide vocational training and social upliftment to wine farm workers with no formal qualifications. This exchange programme selected Moira van der Merwe, from the Bilton tasting room, for the second time in 2010.

5 AWARDS for Journey's End

Boutique winery Journey's End, situated on the slopes of the Schaapenberg Hills above Sir Lowry's Pass Village, scooped two trophies – Best South African Red on Show and Best Merlot on Show – and four further medals at the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong International Wine and Spirit Competition.

Tel 021 858 1929

6 Fleur du Cap's GREEN INNOVATION

Fleur du Cap is living up to its mantra 'inspired by nature' in an innovative eco-friendly way, by becoming the first wine producer to print on actual seed paper for its promotional neck-tags. Instead of simply being tossed away after reading, the neck-tags, embedded with rocket and basil seeds, can be planted as is to start a herb garden. Simply plant the entire Fleur du Cap neck-tag under a thin layer of moist soil in a self-draining pot and place it in a warm, sunny spot.

www.fleurducap.co.za