

Excellent Wines Awarded at the 2017 Vitis Vinifera Awards

The 2017 Vitis Vinifera Awards was the fifth year of this competition, and it saw a large amount of entries. The Cape Wine Academy handled the extensive logistics to ensure smooth running and an exciting double blind tasting over two days on the 7th and 8th of September. The goodwill experienced from every sector showed that this competition will be a benchmark to consider in years to come.

Congratulations to the following seven producers, whose wines did extremely well

- De Grendel Wines
- Cronier Wines
- Namaqua Wines
- Jason's Hill
- Swartland Winery
- Knorhoek
- Koelenhof Winery

The categories that received the most entries were Sauvignon blanc, followed by Shiraz, Merlot, Chenin blanc and Chardonnay. Overall there were a lot more red wines entered, compared to white wines, and the categories that showed the biggest growth in entries were Chenin blanc and the Cape Blends. This definitely indicates a growing trend towards local mainstays. This was also the first year a Pinot blanc and Tinta Roriz were entered.



The 2017 Vitis Vinifera Tasting Team

According to the judges the White blends showed extremely well, especially on the Sauvignon blanc / Semillon side. Overall the wines had great complexity and expression and did their South African identity proud. The judges were also very impressed with the dry Rosés that had great mouth feel, texture and complexity. Sauvignon blanc wines showed consistently well, and the Colombar wines were very good, proving that the quality of this cultivar is often overlooked.

Over all, the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon wines performed much better than the 2015 wines, showing more fruit and structure. The Pinotages were generally impressive and had a lot of structure and fruit character.

On the question of diversity the judges felt that, overall, the wines were very much in the same style, showing a focussed direction in winemaking. The Chardonnays did, however, surprise with the wide ranging styles, showing that winemakers are catering for all styles. The Shiraz wines also had great style diversity and there were some outstanding wines.

Overall the judges were very pleased with the spectrum of quality wines entered into this year's competition. Details about the 2018 Vitis Vinifera Awards will be announced in the last week of January 2018.



Excellence in wine rewarded

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