



The Cape Wine

Master Copy



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In this issue..

Welcome to the return of the MASTERCOPY after 10 years! We are back and hope to bring you regular updates of what is happening in the Cape Wine Master world. In this issue we reflect on 350 years of Cape Wine and we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Institute of Cape Wine Masters. We also introduce the five new CWM's as well as the ICWM Wine Personality of 2009.

Despite the doom and gloom in the financial world, enjoy the celebrations with us as winelovers do... with the fruit of the vine!

Winifred Bowman
EDITOR

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ICWM 25th Anniversary



From L to R: Duimpie Bayly, Phyllis Hands, Tony Mossop, Dave Hughes, Bennie Howard

2009 sees the 25th Anniversary of the ICWM and the 30th anniversary of the Cape Wine Academy. The first three Cape Wine Masters Bennie Howard, Duimpie Bayly and the late Tony Mossop (see above) received their certificates in 1984 in the Stellenbosch office of Godfrey de Bruin, celebrating with a glass of wine! These examinations were held under the auspices of the Cape Wine and Spirit Education Trust. In 2003 the Cape Wine and Spirit Education Trust granted the Cape Wine Academy the right to award the Cape Wine Master (CWM) qualification and confer the Cape Wine Master's title. The CWA formed a joint venture with the Institute of Cape Wine Masters to oversee and run the future examinations.

Over the last 25 years 174 candidates have enrolled of which 71 have qualified. This brings the Institute membership to 64 (including three honorary members). At present 12 candidates are studying to become CWMs.

Celebrations took the form of a glittering black tie function held at the KWV Cathedral Cellar in Paarl. This year the celebration included the graduation of the new Cape Wine Masters as well as the presentation of the ICWM Wine Personality of the Year.

Members: Chris Bargman, Margie Barker, Berenice Barker, Rolene Bauer, Francis "Duimpie" Bayly, Paul Benade, Duane Blaauw, Tom Blok, Winifred Bowman, Cathy Brewer, Marietjie Brown, Sue Brown, Marilyn Cooper, Henry Davel, Chris de Klerk, Heidi Rosenthal Duminy, Stephan du Toit, Pieter Esbach, Margie Fallon, Mary-Lyn Foxcroft, Margaret Fry, Vashti Galpin, Peter Grebler, Brad Gold, Penny Gold, Karen Green, Jeff Grier, Bennie Howard, Dave Johnson, Val Kartsounis, Peter Koff, Hymli Krige, Danielle le Roux, Hennie Loubser, Gerald Ludwinski, Andy Mitchell, Gerda Mouton, Alan Mullins, Boets Nel, Carel Nel, Elsie Pells, Jenny Ratcliffe-Wright, Andy Roediger, Christine Rudman, Andras Salamon, Caroline Snyman, De Bruyn Steenkamp, Eftyhia Vardas, Junel Vermeulen, Irina von Holdt, Meryl Weaver, Cathy

Welcome to the new Masters

This year we welcome five new Wine Masters to the institute— four ladies and one gentleman—two from the Western Cape and 3 from Gauteng. Well done to all of you and we welcome you to the next part of your wine journey.

The Van Ryn Brandy Award for achieving distinction in the brandy theory and tasting examinations was awarded to Duane Blaauw.

Their dissertations covered diverse topics, ranging from consumer-oriented ones – such as increasing the market for wine among emerging South African consumers and the rise and fall of Sémillon – to the more technical, including the effect of wine chemicals on the consumer's dental health, Fourier transforming infrared spectroscopy in grape and wine analysis, and micro oxygenation in contemporary winemaking.

The theses are available for perusal on the Cape Wine Academy website (www.capewineacademy.co.za) and at the SAWIS library.



Rolene Bauer is a natural scientist, working at the Institute for Plant Biotechnology in the Genetics Department of the University of Stellenbosch, where she also serves on expert wine-tasting panels in the Food Science department and the Institute for Wine Biotechnology.

Rolene is the Associate Editor of the SA Journal for Enology and Viticulture (SAJEV), serves as peer reviewer for the SAJEV and American Journal of Enology and Viticulture, and has often published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and presented her work at national and international conferences.

Dissertation: Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy in grape and wine analysis.



Dr Duane Blaauw currently works as a medical doctor, public health specialist and health systems researcher at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Duane followed the typical wine hobbyist evolution from uninformed quaffer to interested amateur and then obsessive expert, with a particular scientific orientation. With his degree in biochemistry, he is drawn to the more technical aspects of oenology.

He is a member of a number of regular wine tasting groups (including the South African Society of Wine Tasters and Wild Yeasts). He has travelled to most of the important wine regions in the World and attended a number of international wine conferences. He has also done the occasional lecture for the CWA.

Duane lives in Johannesburg with his partner Eftyhia Vardas, and together they fantasize about planting

some vines and eventually making wine on their newly purchased Cape property.

Dissertation: Micro oxygenation in contemporary wine-making.



Mary-Lyn Foxcroft is a director of a financial services firm called Blue Platinum Consulting in Johannesburg. She is a member of a number of tasting clubs in Johannesburg including Wild Yeasts, Cellar Rats and a girls-only Bubbly Club.

Through the establishment of a business called Cellar Hands, Mary-Lyn assists clients and friends with the selection of wine for their private or corporate cellars and functions. Her areas of special interest include sparkling wine, Chardonnay and Chateauneuf du Pape.

Dissertation: Growing the consumption of wine amongst the emerging market in South Africa.



Danielle le Roux, who attained a B. Sc degree in agriculture in viticulture and oenology from the University of Stellenbosch, is currently the winemaker for Baarsma SA, making Lyngrove wines (the flagship blend).

She is a qualified SA Wine & Spirit Board taster and, with two Pinotage judging qualifications under her belt, is also a taster for the Young Wine Show and Veritas Awards. She has three tasting groups on the side, makes a garage wine with some friends, loves experiencing and tasting other countries' wines – and visiting them on harvest stints, whenever there is cash to spare.

Dissertation: The influence of wine chemicals on the consumer's (dental) health.



Dr Eftyhia Vardas is a qualified medical doctor and specialist clinical virologist. She currently leads a wholly grant-funded research group focused on HIV prevention within the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Her interest in wine started as light relief from her grueling internship year in East London.

While attending the CWA Wine Seminar in the Cape during 2004, Eftyhia forged new friendships which provided the impetus for the formation of a Johannesburg-based wine group, known as the 'Wild Yeasts'. This group of like-minded friends from various walks of life persuaded one another to register for the CWM course in 2006.

She has assisted in editing and updating the Diploma notes for the CWA and has also lectured for the Diploma and Wines of the World courses.

Apart from spending as much time as possible in the South African winelands, she has been able to combine her professional travels with visiting vineyards and tasting wine all over the world.

Dissertation: The rise and fall of Sémillon in South Africa.

ICWM Personality of the Year



Charles Back with
ICWM Chairman,
Bennie Howard

The ICWM is proud and honoured to award the Wine personality of the 2009 to wine legend Charles Back of Fairview at a glittering black tie event held at the impressive KWV Cathedral Cellar in Paarl.

It is said that wine is made in the vineyard, but it is the influence of exceptional people in the wine industry who capture what nature has given them, in a glass for all to experience and enjoy. Charles Back is one of those exceptional people in our wine industry.

Charles is a man of vision and has a fine-tuned business sense. He is passionate about the soil, vineyards and wine. Under his guidance, the family farm Fairview has developed into one of the bright stars of the South African wine industry. Charles' wine making vision for Fairview, and where he sees the farm and the South African industry in the future, has taken him all over the world. Through his travels he has developed an immense knowledge of winemaking practices and trends, and has applied and shared this knowledge back in South Africa.

Charles' role has evolved over time. He is still very much involved in the winemaking process, but devotes increasing amounts of his time to the development of new sites, collaborations with others in the industry, and the achieving of his long term goals for Fairview. In 1997, he initiated the development of the Fairvalley Workers Association, in conjunction with local government. He donated funds to purchase a 38 acre farm near to Fairview. The association is an economic development initiative, and the workers, who have served Fairview for many years, are now producing their own wine, and plan to build more houses and facilities on the land. Charles provides cellar space for the production of the Fairvalley wines at no cost.

The ICWM presented the annual award to Charles in recognition of his success on the local and export markets and his passionate role in the industry.

ICWM Tasting at Kanonkop

As part of the 25th year of Cape Wine Masters, a special vertical tasting of 25 Kanonkop red wines was presented by Johann Krige for the members of the Institute. It was a great experience to see the development of Kanonkop Pinotages, Cabernet Sauvignons and Paul Sauers over a period of two decades.

Kanonkop Pinotage – There were two clear periods in the tasting, almost separated by the year 2000. The

older wines showed the elegance and complexity of matured red wines, while the younger wines had great depth of fruit, tannin and structure. Good Pinotage can mature very well!

Kanonkop Cabernet Sauvignon – Cabernet is King, is a very true reflection of the 10 vintages that were poured! The wines showed tremendously, each vintage giving a little insight in the fact that we do have small variations in our vintages – from big and bold to more elegant wines with finesse. The younger wines made a brilliant impression, and true to the nature of personal choices the group was divided as to their best wine!

Kanonkop Paul Sauer – we were treated to the great wine of 1991 and wonderful vintages thereafter including the brilliant 2004 that is available now. The masterpiece of any wine maker is his attempt to create that magical wine – and here we could experience the difference of the wines from the two wine makers, Beyers and Abrie. All wonderful wines, but each with his own expression.

We could not wish for a better wine experience than at Kanonkop: Wine maker of the year at IWSC in 2008, Winery of the Year in Platter 2009 as well as Kanonkop Cabernet Sauvignon voted as Wine of the year in Platter' 09. A truly unique tasting experience and wines that we can be proud of as South Africans.

Masters at Cape Wine 2008

The biennial industry showcase to the international market, Cape Wine 2008 took place in September 2008, timed to augment industry efforts to create a spring season of wine. It was presented at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from September 23 to 25. It was attended by more than 300 foreign trade and journalists and large numbers of local trade and journalists.

The Institute of Cape Wine Masters presented a seminar on Emerging Trends in the Wine Industry which was attended by more than a hundred delegates. Three Cape Wine Masters formed the panel - as chairperson. They were ably assisted by Michelle Grimbeek, Greg de Bruyn, Winnie Bowman and Elsie Pells, to open and pour the wines chosen for the event.

A lively questions and answer session followed the presentation. It was clear from the feedback that the topic was well received, the choice of wines illustrated the points and that we as Institute could add value during Cape Wine 2008.



From L-R: Greg
de Bruyn,
Marilyn Cooper,
Winnie Bow-
man, Elsie
Pells, Ginette
de Fleuriot and
Bennie Howard

Duimpie Bayly chaired two other panel discussions including one on Pinotage. Together with Beyers Truter and Bennie Howard they opened two very rare bottles of the first Pinotage ever bottled in South Africa for the tasting, the Lanzerac Pinotage 1959.



Bennie Howard,
Duimpie Bayly and
Beyers Truter

350 Years of Cape Wine

South Africa: A New World Producer with a 350-year history

Although South Africa is counted amongst the New World's wine producers, the first grapes were pressed for wine at the Cape, 350 years ago, on 2nd February 1659 by governor Jan van Riebeeck. He had come to the Cape in 1652 to establish a settlement on behalf of the Dutch East India Company.

Vineyards were planted more extensively a generation later, when the French Huguenots began arriving from 1688 onwards, fleeing religious persecution.

First under Dutch and then British rule, the Cape became famous for its Constantia dessert wines. By the late 18th century they were being served in Europe to the nobility and when Napoleon was exiled to St Helena, in 1815, it is said they brought him some solace.

By the late 19th century and early 20th century, German and Italian immigrants began settling at the Cape, introducing winegrowing and wine making traditions of their own. For most of the 20th century, the local wine industry was controlled by the KWV or the Koöperatiewe Wijnbouwers Vereeniging Beperkt van Zuid-Afrika (Co-operative Wine Growers' Association Limited of South Africa). Founded in 1918 to represent the interests of wine farmers and regulate the stable growth of the Cape's wine industry, it was privatised in 1997, allowing for the deregulation of the industry.

Another impetus for freeing up the industry was South Africa's return to international trade after decades of isolation under apartheid rule. With political reform and the advent of democracy in 1994, there was an influx of financial and intellectual capital into the wine industry. Locally trained winemakers began travelling to other wine-producing countries, to study abroad or work in the cellars of leading winemakers in the Old and New World. Viticulturists began playing a far more prominent role and producers became keenly aware of the need to focus on noble cultivars, to use superior plant material and also to match varietal with terroir, in the process discovering and developing new winegrowing areas. They also began adopting tech-

niques to better express specificity of site in flavour profile. At the same time, producers began developing a conversancy with international markets, and with the needs and demands of consumers. A concerted effort was also made to begin benchmarking against international wines, with world-respected palates from abroad becoming a regular feature of local competition panels, affording a wider frame of reference.

Even though South Africa's presence on contemporary world markets is still in its relative infancy - spanning no more than a decade-and-a-half - the country's wines consistently earn positive attention. They also win prestigious awards on showcases such as the International Wine & Spirit Competition and International Wine Challenge in London, Vinexpo in France, Concours Mondial de Bruxelles in Europe, Sélections Mondiales des Vins in Canada, as well as on other Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin (OIV) events. Stylistically, South African wines occupy the middle ground between Old World and New. Structured for elegance and food-compatibility, they nevertheless express prominent varietal flavours.

Cape Wine Masters played an important role at the special celebration held at Groot Constantia on the 2nd February 2009. Duimpie Bayly (Chairman of the National Wine Show), Phyllis Hands (First principal of the Cape Wine Academy) and Dave Hughes (Wine Writer and Wine Judge) received recognition for their role in the wine industry, while Bennie Howard, chairman of the 350 steering committee, acted as master of ceremonies at the event.

Meet the Committee

At the 2009 AGM of the ICWM the following office bearers were elected:

Chairman: Bennie Howard
Vice-Chairman: Andy Roediger
Secretary: Margaret Fry
Treasurer: Tom Blok

Education Committee:

Bennie Howard
Jeff Grier
Andy Roediger
Ginette de Fleuriot
Winifred Bowman

Last Sip

I can certainly see that you know your wine. Most of the guests who stay here wouldn't know the difference between Bordeaux and Claret.

John Cleese in Fawlty Towers