

# What's Bubbling?

HARVEST 2012

December was cool, promising a slightly later harvest, but then January arrived. While Europe was building up to the big freeze, the opposite was happening on the Southern tip of Africa. At Domaine Grier water froze in the pipes and the vineyard lay under snow while in Stellenbosch, you could make tea from the water out the taps.

Those lucky enough to have sufficient quantities of carefully retained water to irrigate with, could ride out the heat wave with minimal stress to the vines. At Villiera, we were in that fortunate position and the damage was negligible. The ripening was accelerated but we are still a week behind 2011 and the grapes look healthy. Early indications suggest a good harvest although quantities are likely to be down.

The increased popularity of our game drives has necessitated the employment of a qualified game ranger, Guillaume who has 6 years experience in some of the country's top reserves. We continue to be surprised by nature and on a game drive in mid February a Martial Eagle plummeted out of the sky, targeting a young springbok, which it feasted on while the surprised visitors watched. This bird is now appearing 3 or 4 times per week. The 50 000 indigenous trees which we planted are now well established and if you get a chance please pay our sanctuary a visit or phone to find out about our game drives and tasting evenings. See the events section below for dates and information.



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## Villiera Events

### Autumn Festival:

Our Autumn Festival is planned for 24 March. You are welcome to visit us between 11h00 and 15h00 for a relaxed day of wine in the garden. There will be live music and food stalls to cater for all your needs. A cover charge of R30 / person is payable and you should book with Heidi at Villiera on [general@villiera.com](mailto:general@villiera.com) or Tel: 021 865 2002.

Tasting stations will be dotted around the garden, featuring different wine styles. Needless to say, all our wines will be available by the bottle to enjoy on the day or by the case to take home. Special offers will be an added incentive to make the trip.

#### Game Drive and Wine Evenings:

There are 2 dates to diarise: a French evening scheduled for the 28th of March and a Villiera evening on the 11th of April. The French evening will include bubbly on arrival, a game drive through our Wildlife Sanctuary and a tasting of the Domaine Grier range, including the Grier Brut. The evening ends off with a French inspired light meal. The cost is R150 per person and a maximum of 24 people can be accommodated. Book with Celeste at Villiera on [marketing@villiera.com](mailto:marketing@villiera.com). The second evening is similar without the French emphasis.



## Wine Awards



The **International Wine and Spirit Competition** is the last and probably most important competition of the year. The results were announced after our last newsletter and again we performed well.

The most important result to mention is a gold medal for our **Monro Brut 2006** which was also judged best in class. As a result our stock has been snapped up but a few bottles remain for those who feel they have to have some. If you miss out, we have a proven record of consistency with Monro Brut and the 2007 vintage which will follow on, is just as good. It also comes in a gift box which makes it ideal for gifts.

## Domaine Grier

Although the 2011 harvest was excellent and we are reaping the rewards of a very good 2009 harvest with growing sales, the freezing conditions are making cellar work and distribution very difficult. Hopefully it warms up later in the month because our brand manager, Pascal is travelling to France to attend *Vinisud*, *Prowein* and to visit other clients to take Domaine Grier to the next level.

In South Africa the growing success of Domaine Grier has inspired Woolworths to list a **DG Rose**, **Grenache** and **French Tradition bottle fermented sparkling wine** in addition to the **L'Aqueduc**.

The Guide Hachette award for the **2009 Galamus** has created a demand in France. Limited stock is available here but the new **2009 Odyssea** is a great alternative. We have also recently received stock of our 2010 **Maccabeu** for sale and this will be followed by the 2011 vintage later this year.



## Queries & Private Wine Tastings

Gauteng  
Karen Green  
083 2974215  
[karen@imagine.co.za](mailto:karen@imagine.co.za)

Western Cape  
Villiera  
(021) 865 2002 / 3  
[wine@villiera.com](mailto:wine@villiera.com)

Villiera Wines is situated 40km from Cape Town, 20 km from Paarl and 10 km from Stellenbosch.  
Take exit 39 from the N1 highway.  
Travel 2km down the R304 in the direction of Stellenbosch.  
Villiera is at the T-junction on your right, opposite the Koelenhof winery.

[View location on Google Maps](#)

Unlocking Nature

Villiera Wines | P.O. Box 66, Koelenhof, 7605, South Africa  
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