



DE WETSHOF ESTATE
S O U T H A F R I C A



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Living and working in such a unique and special natural environment, conservation of our natural wildlife and vegetation has always been an integral part of De Wetshof's values. Pride in our commitment to preserving this natural heritage reached new heights in September when De Wetshof was granted Champion Status by the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative (BWI), an enterprise underwritten by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and arguably the world's leading certification process for conservation within the global wine industry

Although all three generations of De Wets have practised environmentally friendly farming on the Estate, it was Lesca de Wet's tireless work in ensuring every aspect was in place to ensure that the BWI auditors could tick all the right boxes. This involved, among others, conserving a part of the farm's natural vegetation as well as taking steps to eradicate alien vegetation and ensuring that run-off water is managed in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Lesca has been a champion of conservation far beyond the call of what was required for De Wetshof to receive BWI Champion status. Studies on the bird-life were commissioned, finding close on 100 species. The farm-worker crèche has its own Nature in Concert Conservation Club where infants and school-going children are taught the importance of cherishing the local fauna and flora so as to nurture a culture of conservation for future generations.

The reason for this high-importance on environmental sustainability is logical: as a product of nature, wine has to be made in tandem with the natural environment. And the industry's long-term sustainability is largely dependent on the pristine, untampered state of the environment alongside which it practises its endeavour. We are honoured to be considered a champion.



CAPE WINE 2015, the triannual showcase held by the South African wine industry, took place in September and was the largest and most successful rendition of this show to date. Organised by Wines of South Africa (Wosa), over 3 000 delegates from around the world and South Africa descended on the Cape Town Convention Centre for three days of tastings, talks, information-gathering and general immersion in the local wine lifestyle.



Johann de Wet

Johann de Wet, chairperson of the *South African Chardonnay Forum*, hosted a tasting of the country's diverse spectrum of Chardonnays for 30 members of the international media and wine trade.

According to Johann, the reception South African Chardonnay received at this Chardonnay Forum tasting as well as at the De Wetshof stand during Cape Wine was indicative of the reputation the country is getting for wines made from the royal Burgundian cultivar.

"Every wine journalist, sommelier, wholesaler or critic knows Chardonnay," says Johann. "Being able to showcase wines from De Wetshof and other wineries to an international audience and then to receive compliments on the fine standard of South African Chardonnay was a highlight of my Cape Wine experience."

On the business side, Cape Wine presented De Wetshof with a chance to renew old friendships with various journalists and wine buyers from Europe and America. And De Wetshof also joined two other Robertson producers in giving a selected group of VIP guests a fly-in visit to the region, as well as an overnight wine-tasting at the Sanbona Game Reserve - game drive included, and Big 5 on cue!

A DYNAMIC friend of De Wetshof, Antonio Amorim, president of Amorim Cork in Portugal, took time out from his visit to Cape Wine to drive to Robertson to explore De Wetshof's vineyards, taste some of the recent vintages and to enjoy an authentic boerekos lunch with the family.

This was the first time Antonio headed out into the Robertson region, and the commitment and focus on site-specific wine production on De Wetshof made a marked impression.

"The only real way forward for wine producers is to add value to their product," said Antonio. "Your focus on pockets of terroir which you know and understand, and offering customers the opportunity to experience uniqueness and variety... well this is something that will determine the future success of the South African wine industry. You have such a lot to offer, of which De Wetshof is an example."

Antonio sat down with the De Wets to a traditional lunch of roast leg of mutton, waterblommetjies and roast potatoes, learning that value is not only added in the winery, but in our kitchen too...



Antonio Amorim and Lesca de Wet

IT is not every day that someone gets to "christen" his or her own aeroplane. Our friend Willie du Toit from Windhoek had this privilege when the businessman took ownership of his Rockwell Aero Commander 690C aircraft from the dealer in Dresden.

Willie, however, made sure we were there in spirit as the official wine used to christen the aircraft for the flight was the De Wetshof Brut 2008 Cap Classique made by Peter de Wet.

"This is now our official in-flight wine," quips Willie. "I am already in the process of having the required cooling units fitted to keep the De Wetshof Cap Classique chilled." Peter, who has his private pilot's licence, is obviously chomping at the bit to join our pilot friend for a drink in the skies, but one of them will have to keep his hands on the flying equipment...



Willie du Toit taking delivery of the new aircraft.



Willie du Toit and the in-flight drink of De Wetshof Brut

AS the Afrikaans writer Louis Leipoldt said, October truly is the most beautiful of all months. With spring in our Valley and the vines resplendent in a green shroud and the jacarandas about to don a mauve coat, Robertson is a good place to be.

We look forward, as always, to welcoming you.

The De Wet Family