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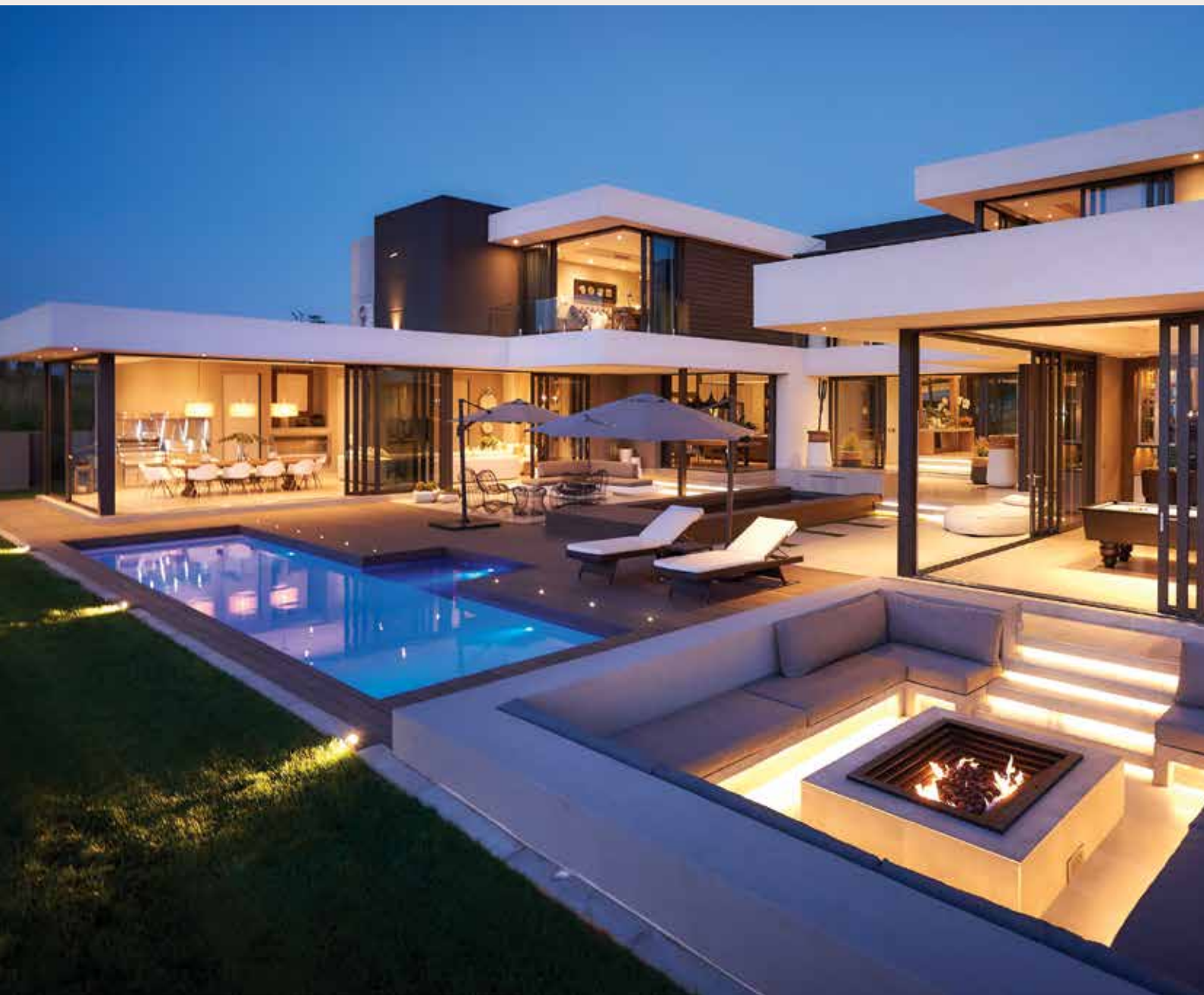
The Diners Club International Magazine

**2023 DINERS CLUB  
WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR**

*Tertius Boshoff*

A Winelands Culinary Odyssey  
Ferrari Roma Spider in Sardinia  
2024 Platter's by Diners Club





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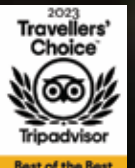
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*from the* MD



## Welcome

Esh Naidoo  
**Managing Director**

It is that time of the year when Diners Club proudly presents our most prestigious, and critically acclaimed awards – the annual Diners Club Winemaker of the Year, and Young Winemaker of the Year.

Now in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year, these awards represent the culmination of painstaking work by South Africa's most respected winemakers, and as Diners Club we are immensely proud of the achievements of the winners in both category this year. Not to be disregarded, I would personally like to commend the finalists in each category, whose achievements also must not be overlooked. To be a

finalist in the Diners Club Winemaker and Young Winemaker of the Year competition is a stellar achievement in its own right.

While we celebrate the South African wine industry, I would also like to take the opportunity to wish all Diners Club card holders and customers a prosperous new year filled with all the excitement and stature that comes with being a Diners Club customer.

The Diners Club South Africa team continues to strive to serve you to the best of our ability, and are privileged to be your consistent companion on your life's journey.

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A full-page advertisement for Jimmy Choo Rose Passion fragrance. A woman with long, dark, flowing hair is the central figure, wearing a black, backless, form-fitting dress and black high-heeled sandals. She is posing elegantly on a terracotta-colored ledge overlooking a turquoise swimming pool. The background features a clear blue sky with light clouds and a distant coastline. In the bottom right corner, a large, ornate, pink glass perfume bottle with a black cap is prominently displayed. The bottle has a textured, floral-like design and the brand name 'JIMMY CHOO' is visible on its neck.

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# BUILD YOUR LEGACY

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Located in the southern section of Kruger National Park, **Shawu's Hills Wildlife Estate** sprawls over 334 hectares bordered by the picturesque Crocodile River and the spectacular backdrop of untouched nature. And you can own, or part-own a piece of this remarkable paradise. The estate consists of 93 full-title stands, 20 fractional lodges and 75-100 timeshare units. With a modern architectural aesthetic perfectly suited to the bushveld setting, Shawu's Hills is the perfect opportunity for building your legacy.

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SCAN ME



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Bluegrass Developers

Lindi le Grange

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Bordering the serene Crocodile River, and overlooking the iconic Kruger National Park, home to the Big 5, **Simbini Lifestyle Estate** is a new frontier of inspired African luxury living and farming.

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to design their dream home, each with more than 30m of river frontage, and spectacular wildlife sightings. Residents are assured of complete security, with a state-of-the-art 24hr Artificial Intelligence security system, and an advanced medical facility is currently under construction in Malelane. This investment opportunity is one that not only offers a unique lifestyle of luxury integrated with nature, but an opportunity to prepare for the future. Build your legacy at Simbini Lifestyle Estate.



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## GO THERE



### SAVOUR NATURE AT BITES BEACH CAFÉ

Perched in a remote and historic Cape Dutch cottage at 'Koppie Alleen,' Bites Beach Café at Morukuru Family De Hoop boasts breathtaking views of the De Hoop Nature Reserve shoreline. Modern architectural touches complement the café's exceptional location, providing uninterrupted vistas of the Indian Ocean. With indoor and outdoor seating, it's a prime spot for land-based whale watching during the Southern Right whales' calving season from July to October. A cosy fireplace keeps you warm in winter, while summer offers a perfect outdoor setting to enjoy the wildlife, views, and sun. The menu features fresh fish, wood-fired pizzas, burgers, coffee, and cakes. Bites welcomes walkers and day visitors to De Hoop Nature Reserve from 10 am to 4 pm, seven days a week. [www.morukuru.com](http://www.morukuru.com)

### EZ GLOBAL REACH

EZ Shuttle has exciting news as they expand their global partner network, now offering rides on every continent. This expansion represents a substantial growth in their international transfer services, extending their reach from 850 to an



### DE MOND VILLA - EXCLUSIVE LUXURY

A short drive from Cape Town, the De Hoop Collection in the De Hoop Nature Reserve offers a pristine environment, a Ramsar-listed vlei, wide open spaces, beaches, coastal fynbos, and plentiful animal and birdlife, plus a wide range of accommodation that includes a newly restored and refurbished Villa. Offering five ensuite bedrooms, spectacular décor, incredible views, a boma, and a swimming pool overlooking the Ramsar vlei, De Mond Villa is home to spectacular wildlife and

also provides the accommodation for The De Hoop Collection's new trail, the 'De Hoop Trail - Vlei to Whales' that promises a memorable walking experience over four days. De Mond Villa is fully catered and guided at R3,500 pppn (minimum occupancy of five guests). With unparalleled peace and tranquillity, De Hoop is a nature lover's paradise, and one of the Cape's last unspoiled gems. De Hoop Collection is a member of Cape Country Routes.

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# JOURNEY OF OPULENCE

## *A Culinary Odyssey with Range Rover, Hazendal, and JAN Franschhoek*

**Signature recently embarked on a two-day escape to the Cape Winelands, courtesy of Range Rover, on a mission to explore some of the culinary and travel gems in South Africa's tourism crown.**

Few destinations match the splendour of the Cape Winelands, where we recently embarked on a culinary and automotive journey that, over the course of two days, unfolded as a seamless fusion of elegance, innovation, and sophistication – a journey akin to the grandeur of the Range Rover itself.

### STATELY ACCOMMODATION

The Hazendal, nestled within the sprawling Hazendal Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, presented a haven where modern design blends effortlessly with historic Cape Dutch architecture. Each of the 34 individually curated rooms bears witness to contemporary indulgence, adorned with vibrant artworks curated by Marvol Gallery.

The shady central courtyard houses a heated pool and stylish pergolas – a refuge for relaxation amidst the sun-drenched Winelands. The newly minted spa, a marriage of historic charm and modern aesthetics, offers rejuvenating treatments in serene surroundings. The dining experience, under the direction of Executive Chef Michelle Theron, adds to the culinary tapestry with shimmering chandeliers and a refined menu.

The Hazendal experience, a confluence of Range Rover's unmatched elegance and the hotel's lavish offerings, created an

unforgettable escapade – a rendezvous of automotive and hospitality excellence.

### A STAR ON THE RISE

On the eve of our opulent escape, under the starlit canvas of the Franschhoek Valley, chauffeured by the super-efficient Range Rover team, we glided toward the culinary enchantment of JAN Franschhoek, the gastronomic sanctuary orchestrated by South Africa's Michelin-starred maestro, Jan-Hendrik van der Westhuizen.

A vision for the poet's eye, tucked neatly in the heart of La Motte Estate, the historic Veepos cottage served as the stage for our extraordinary encounter with Jan and his culinary opus. In this intimate abode, Jan masterfully transported us through time, evoking the essence of early 19th-century valley life. The menu, a symphony of nostalgic culinary tales and heartfelt memories, unfolded with each impeccably presented course.

Jan, a virtuoso in orchestrating culinary experiences, not only curated but also performed, as he personally welcomed us all into his "home in the Winelands". His presence at our table, an engaging dance of passion and expertise, elevated the evening into the realm of artistry. His anecdotes, a tapestry woven with timeless memories, added layers to the heavenly gastronomic journey.



JAN Franschhoek





The unique dining concept, delivering a canvas of local and seasonal ingredients, serves as an homage to regional cuisine, and as Jan and his team meticulously crafted the masterpieces in his atelier, the fragrant aromas and sizzles became a sensory symphony, resonating with the precision and dedication that defines his culinary prowess. It wasn't merely a meal but a narrative, a journey through the rich tapestry of South African flavours, expertly woven by a Michelin-starred storyteller.

In the cocoon of Jan's culinary sanctuary, our senses danced, and our palates revelled in delight, and as we embarked on our return journey to The Hazendal, the velvety interiors of the







Range Rover mirrored the sumptuousness of the evening – an exquisite echo of the luxury that defines both Range Rover and JAN Franschhoek. An experience seamlessly melding the prowess of a Michelin-starred luminary, the heritage of the Franschhoek Valley, and the sophistication of Range Rover – culinary alchemy at its finest.

#### THE CROWN JEWEL

In the realm of luxury SUVs, where opulence meets performance, the new Range Rover reigns supreme. As I took the wheel of the Range Rover Autobiography P530, it was apparent that this masterpiece epitomises refined elegance and formidable power. I also spent time driving

the equally impressive Range Rover SV P530, with both vehicles justifying a clever twist of an old saying: “With great power comes great response!”.

The interior of the Range Rover unfolds in the form of a bespoke sanctuary, a blend of cutting-edge technology and meticulous craftsmanship. Luxury, in the Range Rover, goes beyond aesthetics. The cabin exudes sophistication with active noise cancellation, transforming the interior into a haven of tranquillity.


Seated in the embrace of the Range Rover, every moment is a testament to its unparalleled comfort. Front seats offer 24-way heating and cooling, coupled with soothing massages. In the lap of “Executive Class” seats, rear passengers

enjoy individual adjustability, control over windows and privacy blinds, and a rear entertainment system.

Under the hood, the top-of-the-line Range Rover Autobiography commands attention with its 390kW twin-turbocharged powerhouse, as its eight-speed automatic transmission effortlessly channels this power to the all-wheel-drive system, ensuring an instant surge off the line and extraordinary acceleration, perfectly suited to executing quick and safe overtaking manoeuvres.

On the road, the Range Rover's character shines. Nimble steering imparts a light, tactile feel, making it responsive on winding paths. The new four-wheel steering system is a revelation, enhancing manoeuvrability at low speeds while maintaining a poised composure at higher speeds.

Beyond the asphalt, the Range Rover's ride quality is unparalleled. Air suspension, electronic dampers, and active anti-roll bars collaborate to deliver an exceptional experience, even on massive 23” alloys.

A symphony of comfort, luxury, and power makes the Range Rover an indomitable force in the realm of full-size luxury SUVs – a vehicle that wears its crown with undeniable authority. 

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by **chantal barton**  
/ photography by **jlr south africa**

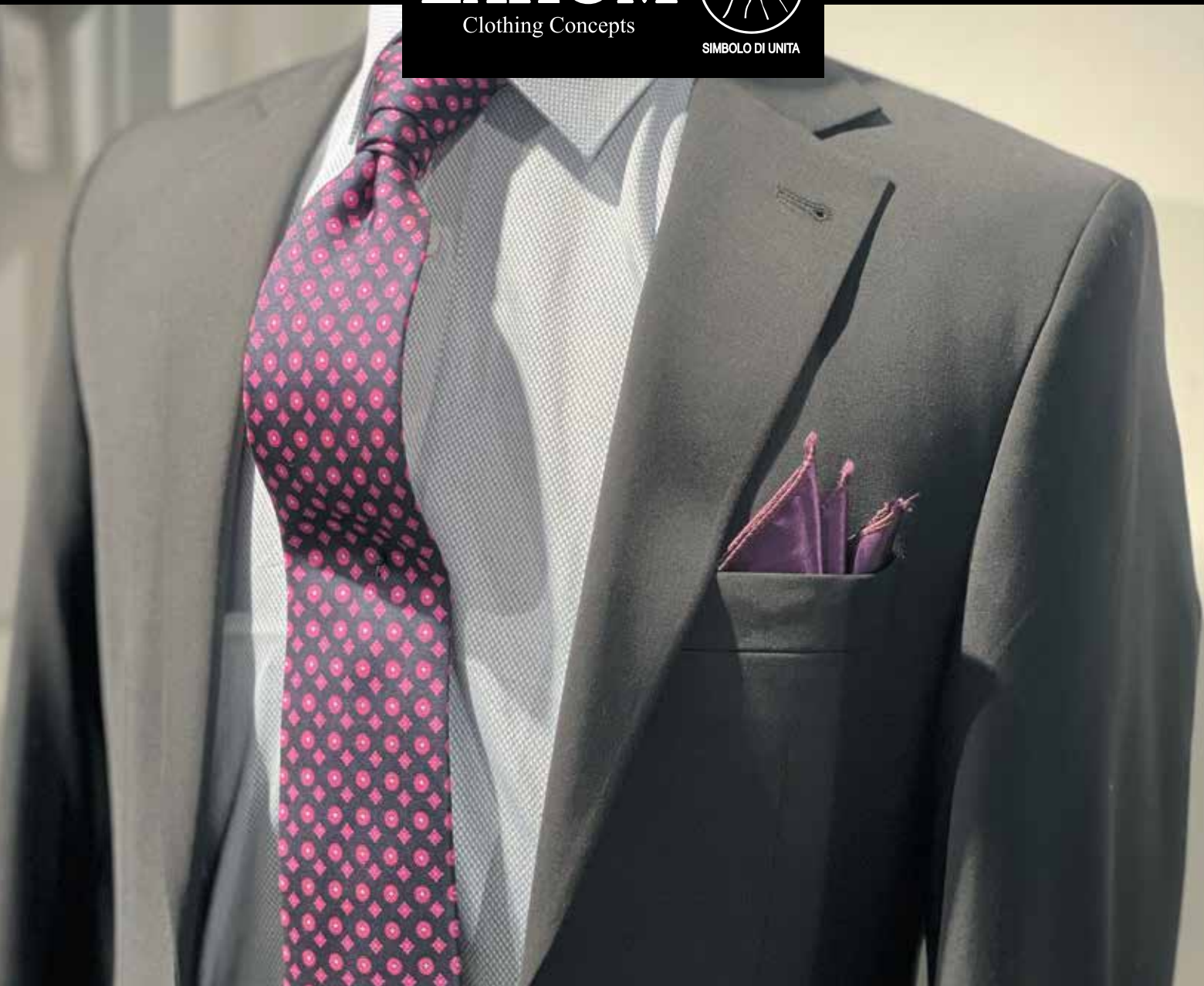


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# WHERE EXCELLENCE **MEETS** **WINEMAKING**

*Tertius Boshoff: 2023 Diners Club Winemaker of the Year*

As one of the largest family-owned and operated wine farms in Stellenbosch, the Stellenrust name is synonymous with the South African wine experience. Here, winemaker Tertius Boshoff has dedicated himself to producing wines of excellence and distinction, as evidenced by his 2020 ArtiSons Blueberry Hill Shiraz that has, this year, earned him the honour of being crowned the 2023 Diners Club Winemaker of the Year.







Established in 1928, the Stellenrust Wine Estate, located on the outskirts of South Africa's wine capital, Stellenbosch, is one of the country's most recognisable export wine brands.

With 200ha of the estate's 400ha planted to vines, half stretching across an area known as the Stellenbosch 'Golden Triangle', Stellenrust's terroir is recognised as some of the best wine soil in the country. The other half of the vineyard is situated high up in the Bottelary Hills, renowned for its cool climate and late afternoon sea breezes that roll in from Cape Town, nurturing excellent white and red wines.

#### A HISTORY OF ARTISTRY

According to legend, Stellenrust's ancestral grandfather and founder believed that winemaking is an art that "should pulse through your veins", and this philosophy still applies to viticulture and winemaking at Stellenrust, where winemaker Tertius Boshoff and his brother Kobie van der Westhuizen staunchly believe in this mantra.

Before following their artistic passion by joining the Stellenrust business in 2006, both brothers were given the opportunity to study outside of the wine industry. Kobie, now the







viticulturist, qualified as an accountant, while winemaker Tertius attained his qualification in dentistry. This led to vigorous growth and discovery for the Stellenrust brand.

“I completed my degree in dentistry at Stellenbosch University in 2005”, says Tertius, “but my heart was always in the vineyard and the wine. My mother resisted the idea, but being a strong-willed Virgo, I pressed ahead, and Kobie and I revived the Stellenrust label practically from scratch. Although we started from humble beginnings, we both have a passion for the artistry around wine and have been blessed to re-establish one of the largest family-owned farms in Stellenbosch as one of South Africa’s leading export brands. When asked what I have been doing for the last 18 years of my life, there is only one answer: Stellenrust.”

#### **EXCELLENCE BOTTLED**

Stellenrust is one of the largest

family-owned wine estates in South Africa, with generations of winemaking skills and the legacy of their motto ‘where excellence meets winemaking’ put forward in every bottle.

This distinction is most evident in Tertius’ triumphant 2020 Blueberry Hill Shiraz, the wine that has earned him South Africa’s most coveted winemaking accolade. “Blueberry Hill Shiraz is a bottled version of the African idiom: bending the sapling while still young”, says Tertius, as the vineyard that yields the Shiraz grapes used for Blueberry Hill stands in hard clay that all but suffocates the vines during the hot summer months. “We have tried numerous times to transplant the vineyard, but to no avail. So, in that clay patch are some vines that simply refuse to die. It is from those few vines where the few grapes they carry are harvested, and a Shiraz with intense blueberry notes is made – from there the name Blueberry Hill Shiraz – as that is where,



as the song goes, 'I found my thrill'."

#### **WINEMAKING PASSION REWARDED**

In its 43<sup>rd</sup> year, the Diners Club's Winemaker of the Year competition continues the well-established legacy of rewarding exceptional accomplishments in wine. Or, as Tertius puts it: "This competition acknowledges those late nights in the cellar where one is dirty and tired, and you question life. Or when the harvest takes forever, and you cannot help but question why you keep

doing this to yourself.

The answer, of course, is in the recognition that comes with the award, and in the fact that the Diners Club Winemaker of the Year competition is one of the few platforms, if not the only one, where winemakers are sincerely acknowledged.

Besides that, it is also a perpetual motivator to improve what we do, not to mention that the award is highly respected in the industry. That said, it's not just about me; it is also about the 12 other people who work with me in





## *stellenrust wine estate*


Stellenrust was granted in 1692 to Douwe Gerbrand Steyn. Steyn was pivotal in the establishment of the East Indian Spice Route.

He did not only oversee the building of the Castle of Good Hope as master stone mason, but was also one of the first to plant vineyards and make wine in the Cape. He registered the Stellenrust 'finding rest in Stellenbosch' trademark in 1928 and many moons later, Stellenrust still boasts being one of the largest family owned wine estates in South Africa carrying through generations of winemaking skills. Captured in every bottle lies the legacy of our history and motto 'where excellence meets winemaking'.

**[www.stellenrust.co.za](http://www.stellenrust.co.za)**

the cellar and help make the wine, and the nearly 200 people who work the vineyards and ensure those beautiful grapes make it into the cellar. I call these people the 'Ghosts of the Bottle' as they are often overlooked when our wines are recognised. It is an undisputed fact that one cannot make good wine from bad grapes, so should I be crowned as this year's winner, the award would be for all the people of Stellenrust.

by **bernie hellberg jr**  
/ photography by **ryan abbott**

For more information on Stellenrust wines, visit [www.stellenrust.co.za](http://www.stellenrust.co.za). 



# FINDING EXCELLENCE

*Judges of the 2023 Diners Club Winemaker  
and Young Winemaker of the Year*

The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Diners Club Winemaker of the Year award – and 21<sup>st</sup> Young Winemaker of the Year award – remains the industry-standard accolade for South African master winemakers. This year, both contests were again presided over by a panel of experts whose sole interest was to select the wine that best represents the ideals of the competition.

## CARRIE ADAMS

Chief Judge

As the longest-serving convenor of judges for the Diners Club Winemaker of the Year, and Young Winemaker of the Year competitions, Chief Judge Carrie Adams is one of the most respected judges in the industry.

Although a South African in every way, Carrie discovered her interest in wine while living abroad in England. Armed with a new passion, she completed a number of wine courses, and, upon her return to South Africa, she secured a position at Anglo American Farms, which owned Boschendal and Vergelegen at that time.

Following another passion, retail, Carrie joined Norman GoodFellows in 1997 and became immersed in the wine and spirits industries, and in the process of judging wines. Carrie regards judging as one of her career's happiest and most rewarding aspects. While it is not as easy as it appears – as it requires a lot of concentration and single-mindedness to ensure that each entrant receives the same amount of care and consideration – she believes that the Diners Club Winemaker and Young Winemaker of the Year competition grants each contestant the fairest opportunity to excel.



*Carrie Adams*



## DENZEL SWARTS

Judge

As the first university graduate in his family, Denzel Swarts worked his way up from grassroots in the wine industry. From farm child to the position he holds today as Sales & Brand Executive of Zoetendal Vineyards, he holds various certificates in wine from the Cape Wine Academy (Introduction, South African, International Wines & Food and Wine Pairing), Elsenburg Agriculture Training Institute (Vineyard Pruning), Stellenbosch University (Small scale winemaking, Wine Evaluation), University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business (The Business of Wine) and graduated in 2021 with a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practice, majoring in Business Administration.

“The competition was very tough, with excellent examples of Shiraz that were put forward,” says Denzel of this year’s Diners Club Winemaker of the Year entries. “There were some great examples of how the winemaking techniques showcased and respected the fruit from the particular climate, producing some brilliant examples from expressive fruit forwards, big, bold, smoky styles, and some lovely, refined styles.

Denzel says of the Young Winemaker of the Year contest, “What was prominent was some of the unusual varieties and wine styles, showing that some young winemakers were willing to put themselves out there and be different. This shows the versatility and promise of great senior winemakers to come and watch out for.”

Although a seasoned professional, Denzel notes the challenging nature of the Diners Club Winemaker of the Year competition “is not just judging a wine, but consistently keeping in mind that you are looking at the ability and expertise of the winemaker and how he



*Denzel Swarts*

or she has preserved the integrity of the grape and filled it with flair to put them apart from another winemaker.”

## SHANE MUMBA

Judge

As a certified sommelier, esteemed South African Sommelier Association board member, South African Brandy Foundation ambassador, and renowned competition judge, Shane brings unique expertise to the Diners Club Winemaker and Young Winemaker of the Year judging panel.

Describing himself as “passionate about education and personal

development,” Shane believes that South Africa makes some of the best wines and brandies in the world. As a trained sommelier and industry professional, his goal is always to make strategic and innovative decisions that can help grow the wine and hospitality industries, and add to their sustainability.

Saying of this year’s entries for the Diners Club Winemaker of the Year contest, “Shiraz is an impressive, delicate, and underappreciated variety that produces some of the best wines in South Africa, and I’m grateful for the chance to gain substantial knowledge

Shane Mumba



from the other judges on the panel.

Shane also heaps praise on the finalists in the Young Winemaker of the Year competition, saying, "It is certain that they are Incredibly bright, creative, and talented young South African winemakers. Our country's talent will continue to promote South Africa as a prominent global wine producer. The wines were outstanding and are all worthy winners."

#### **WINNIE BOWMAN**

Judge

A qualified physiotherapist and biomedical scientist with a PhD in Education, Cape Wine Master, Dr Winnie Bowman developed an interest in wine during her student days at Stellenbosch University and later through frequent travels to international winegrowing areas.

When not writing about wine for several prominent local and international publications, or giving

talks on wine for radio and television, Winnie is an international wine and spirit judge and panel chair. Her passions include people, wine travel, tennis, cricket, opera, theatre, reading, and art. She is the Maître of the Commanderie de Bordeaux en Afrique du Sud, a member of the exclusive South African Brandy Guild, and the Circle of Wine Writers (UK) Chairperson, among many accolades.

As a celebrated international judge, Winnie understands the complex nature of judging sophisticated wines and notes the high standard of Shiraz entries for this year's Diners Club Winemaker of the Year contest, saying, "It was a delight to see the different styles, including the increase in cool climate wines. Especially pleasing was the oak management throughout. Excellent wines, and all the entrants should be congratulated."

Citing the professional nature of the Diners Club Winemaker and Young

Winemaker of the Year judging process, Winnie also commends the white wine entries for the Young Winemaker of the Year competition. "What a lovely spread of different varieties and styles," she says, "the standouts for me were the Chardonnays, Sauvignon Blancs, and the lone Gewürztraminer. Very good winemaking on display, and it bodes well for the next generation taking charge of our sunshine wines."

#### **YEGAS NAIDOO**

Judge

Born in Port Shepstone on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast, and raised in the UK from the age of 13, Yegas says it is thanks to her family insisting that education was a priority and getting a degree, almost a must, that she was able to follow a formal academic path as well as pursue a diploma in wine and spirits through the Wine and Spirit Education Trust in the UK.

After finishing her schooling, she



Winnie Bowman



Yegas Naidoo



went on to study biochemistry at London University, followed by an MBA in Marketing at City University London, choosing the dissertation topic The British Wine Profile.

Having spent more than a decade as a wine judge at some of the most prestigious wine-tasting events and competitions in the world, spanning London, France, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, and Canada, Yegas says, "In the midst of myriad wine competitions, the Diners Club Winemaker and Young Winemaker Awards has always uniquely focussed with congruency, and is stringently and efficiently managed from a logistic ambit to yield results that are commendably relevant for both the public and the winemaking fraternity."

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by **bernie hellberg jr**  
/ photography by **ryan abbott**

# FOR THE LOVE OF SHIRAZ

## *2023 Diners Club Winemaker of the Year Finalists*

**Facing overwhelming competition in this year's contest, Few varietals have as complex a history as Shiraz (or Syrah, if you prefer), yet, as one of the most popular cultivars in South Africa, the future of Shiraz grows increasingly brighter. We pay tribute to the 2023 Diners Club Winemaker of the Year finalists, whose passion for the Shiraz grape is evident in every bottle of wine they so lovingly produce.**

Although the facts clearly indicate when and where the first Shiraz wine was made in South Africa, there is uncertainty about when the cultivar entered the country.

A variety of theories prevail: that the cuttings were brought to the Cape from Europe by the end of the 1600s by Governor Simon van der Stel, and another that Scotsman James Busby, a viticulturist and the man credited for introducing Shiraz to Australia, offloaded some cuttings in Cape Town on his way from Europe in 1840. The first confirmation of it being planted on South African soil was at the end of the 1890s in the vineyards of Groot Constantia.

In 1957, winemaker Bernard Podlashuk, generally referred to as "The Father of Shiraz in South Africa", was the first to bottle Shiraz as a single cultivar under the Bellingham label. He was followed in 1963 by Groot Constantia and in 1965 by Klawer Co-op.

Today, Shiraz is the second most planted red variety in South Africa after

Cabernet Sauvignon and fourth overall after Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Colombard, and this year's selection of finalists in the Diners Club Winemaker of the Year contest proves why this varietal is at the height of its popularity in South Africa.

### **ANNAMARIE FOURIE**

2018 Holden Manz Syrah Reserve

Unlike some winemakers born into the industry, Annamarie Fourie's journey with wine began much later in life. After returning from a year working as a childminder in the United States, Annamarie's view on life changed drastically. When a friend suggested that she work a harvest at Durbanville Hills, where there was an opportunity for someone to man the weighbridge, she jumped at the chance. Working with interns at the farm, Annamarie realised that winemaking was her calling and enrolled at Elsenburg, where she began her studies in 2007.

Annamarie's first harvest was at Anwilka, working with Jean Du Plessis and consultants Hubert de Boüard and







*Annamarie Fourie*

Phillippe Nunes, who assisted her in securing a harvest position in Bordeaux, Saint-Estephe.

Her career led Annamarie to Backsberg, where she gained and perfected her wine administration skills. "I think this was the most valuable of all," she opines. "After that, I found myself as an assistant winemaker for the first time, working with Ryno Kruger and Burger Badenhorst at Waterstone Wines, and from there, I worked my way up to winemaker, whereafter she joined the Holden Manz team in 2015. Together, Gerard Holden, Thierry Haberer, and I are pushing boundaries and making wine people enjoy drinking," she concludes.

Annamarie explains of the 2018 Holden Manz Syrah Reserve, "The grapes for this wine came from one block. Grapes were harvested in log crates, early in the morning. The wine is a combination of tank and barrel fermentation, with 50% of the grapes being crushed whole bunch into the tank/barrel. The wine has ripe tannins, a long lingering finish, and lovely notes of violets and raspberry with that Hermitage-style black pepper backbone."

#### **CHARLES HOPKINS**

2020 De Grendel Shiraz

Charles Hopkins has been at De Grendel since the beginning of winemaking on the Durbanville farm in 2005, when Sir David Graaff lured him away from Graham Beck with an irresistible offer to head up winemaking and design and build his own cellar. As a lifelong student of wine, Charles remains as curious today as over the last 30 years in the industry, and with multiple local and international accolades, he remains perpetually curious to learn even more on his winemaking journey.

In November 2019, Charles achieved a significant milestone on this journey, with the award of his first five-star rating in the Platter's by Diners Club South African Wine Guide for the 2017 Elim Shiraz from De Grendel – a wine that is incredibly close to his heart.

Charles has been involved in all facets of winemaking in South Africa, and has extended his learning by working two vintages overseas, one



*Charles Hopkins*

in France and one in California, as well as regular study tours to other winemaking countries. He has served the industry as a board member of the Cape Winemakers' Guild and various producer associations such as the Shiraz, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinotage Associations. His wines have achieved gold and double gold, and scores of 95 and more in local and international competitions and wine ratings.

Charles' respect for the Diners Club Winemaker of the Year competition is palpable when he describes it as, "a wonderful competition that I believe all winemakers dream of winning, and the fact that it is a single style of wine makes it interesting and more competitive."

#### **DEWALDT HEYNS**

2021 Dewaldt Heyns Weathered Hands Shiraz

It is no understatement to say that Dewaldt Heyns grew up among the vines. In a region where farm boys are expected to be able to drive by the



*Dewaldt Heyns*



age of eight, the second Heyns son was familiar with hard work at a young age. Perhaps inevitably, his work in the family vineyards taught him a love for viticulture and the honesty of labour. It was also here that he began to identify his father by his hands, marked as they were by a life of toil in the Swartland sun.

Dewaldt's father took over the family farm, Uitvlug, from his father when he was only 19. Uitvlug is nestled in the Jouberts-kloof, the easternmost kloof in the Perdeberg and the heart of the Swartland, one of South Africa's starkest and most demanding wine-growing regions.

Says Dewaldt. "Since I was young, I have identified my father by his hands, which bear the signs of his labour. This stark region keeps you humble - a man has to be close to the soil to be successful here. Growing up on this farm has, to a great extent, shaped the man I am today."

Today, as proprietor of Dewaldt Heyns Family Wines, the winemaker beams with pride for his 2023 Diners Club Winemaker of the Year finalist wine, the 2021 Weathered Hands Shiraz, as the wine, and others in the range, are inspired by the land Dewaldt grew up on, and is dedicated to the man whose love for the vine was the start of his own.

## JOSEF DREYER

2020 Raka Biography Shiraz

Few winemakers can claim the unique history of familial wine lineage as Josef Dreyer, who not only shines as the winery's second-generation winemaker, but was also instrumental in planting the first vines on the farm when he was a teenager.

"I grew up on our family farm in the Overberg, where we farmed soft citrus and livestock," says Josef. "In 1999, when I was 15, I helped to establish the first vineyards on the farm and had to take my turn watering them. I was at boarding school during the first harvest, but came home as often as possible, and was there with our first bottling of wine in 2002."

Josef's exposure to winemaking and its intriguing processes at such a young age provoked a keen interest. After matriculating in 2003, he began



his studies at Elsenburg, where he was fortunate enough to have Loftie Ellis as his lecturer and mentor, and graduated from the institution with a BAgriC degree in 2006 while working on the family farm and in the cellar over weekends.

In 2007, Josef took over the winemaking responsibilities at Raka, but as he explains, he is also involved with other aspects of the estate. "As a family-owned wine estate, we all need to dig in and help where needed, so besides my winemaking responsibilities, I am involved in marketing, get my weekends to work in the tasting room, do wine shows, and make my own coffee," says Josef. "Shiraz is my favourite cultivar to work with, and it was an enormous accomplishment for me when the first Shiraz I produced won the trophy for

best wine on show at the Michelangelo Wine Awards in 2008.

“Raka Biography Shiraz 2022 is an 88% Shiraz, 2% Viognier, and 10% Mouvedre blend, with the latter two varietals adding fruit and spiciness to the wine. It is both smoky and fruity on the nose with a hint of red cherry. The palate is smooth and elegant with a rich complexity and tart note on the dry finish. Smoky notes follow from the nose.”

“To be nominated as a finalist in the Diners Club Winemaker of the Year competition is a great honour and privilege. As a winemaker, I try to serve the best product of every vintage. The quality of the components determines the size of production, and the quality of the components, in turn, is determined by nature,” he concludes.

#### **RJ BOTHA**

2020 Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Syrah

In 2007, RJ Botha completed his BScAgric in Viticulture and Oenology at the University of Stellenbosch and wasted no time in immersing himself in the industry when he joined Nitida Cellars in Durbanville as winemaker in December that year. In 2008, he travelled to the world-famous Chateau Angelus in St Emilion to work the harvest, and in 2009, to the Despagne Family in Bordeaux, before winning the 2010 Diners Club Young Winemaker of the Year contest.


After five successful years at Nitida, RJ swapped Durbanville for Stellenbosch when he joined Kleine Zalze as head winemaker, where he today serves as the winery’s cellar master. RJ’s accolades at Kleine Zalze over the last 11 years include being crowned the Platter’s Winery of the Year, Veritas Best Producer, Trophy Wine Show Best Producer, Michael Angelo Best Producer, and the Best White Wine in the World winner at

Concours Mondial.

The Winemaker of the Year finalist describes his 2020 Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Syrah as a wine with intense colour that balances excellent fruitiness with white pepper.

“We’ve worked a lot on our Syrah style over the last few years,” says RJ, “and this proves that we’re moving in the right direction. Grapes come from Helderberg and Firgrove/Faure vineyards, and most of the vineyards

can ‘see’ the sea. I firmly believe that vineyards that can ‘see’ the sea are happy vineyards.”

The Diners Club Winemaker of the Year is arguably the most prestigious title in South Africa. It is a great honour just to be nominated as a finalist, and while RJ’s winnings at the competition will not come full circle this year, his dedication to the art of winemaking is bound to bear more “beautiful” fruit in the years to come. 





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# A CLASSIC TRIUMPH

*Nongcebo Langa – 2023 Diners Club  
Young Winemaker of the Year*

Taking home the most coveted prize for young winemakers in the country, Nongcebo Langa from Delheim Wines has proven herself a force to be reckoned with in the South African wine industry.

Nongcebo Langa's story begins in the townships of Pietermaritzburg, where alcohol consumption was never part of her family lifestyle and never really something the young winemaker ever thought about. A hard worker since she can remember, Nongcebo worked studiously on her academic career to secure scholarships from prestigious schools such as St. Nicholas Diocesan School – where she attended for most of her high school career – before completing her matric qualification at Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School in 2011.

During this time, Nongcebo was introduced to the world of agriculture following presentations from the University of Stellenbosch, where she was surprised to learn that a degree in viticulture and oenology even existed.

Although Nongcebo's hard work had placed her in a position to achieve, the humble young winemaker puts her excellent achievements down to good fortune. "I was fortunate that my grades

at school put me into the position where I was awarded a bursary to study at the University of Stellenbosch – very far from home for me. I could think of nothing more than Viticulture and Oenology", says Nongcebo.

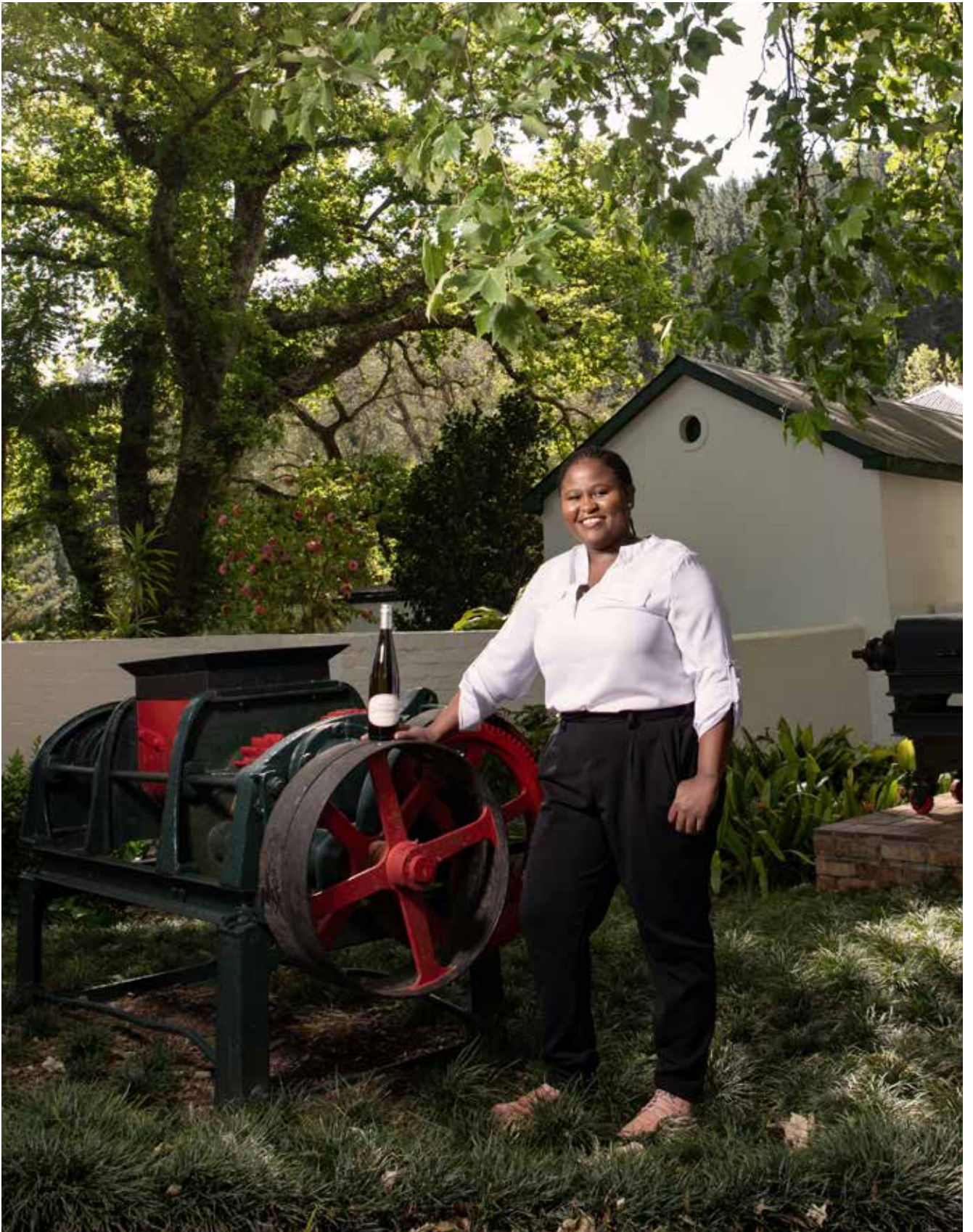
## CULTURE SHOCK

To be submerged in a culture very different to what she was used to before was a "massive adjustment" for the aspiring winemaker, she says, "but in all fairness, it was wine, so it made the transition a lot more fun. I fell in love with wine and wanted to learn everything one could possibly learn regarding wine, and that gave me a great platform to develop."

## A CAREER BEGINS TO BLOOM

Nongcebo's first harvest internship was in 2015 at Groot Constantia, and in 2016, she became the winemaker at Highgate Wine Estate in Howick, KwaZulu-Natal. The Winelands, however, had other plans for her. "I soon realised that my heart was in Stellenbosch, and that I wasn't done studying yet", she







says. Nongcebo returned to her studies and completed her master's degree in Oenology in 2018, whereafter she was ready to take on winemaking again.

"I was lucky enough to start an internship at one of my favourite wine-tasting farms, Delheim, in 2019. Little did I know I was going to be asked to join the team permanently and be sent over to California to do a harvest at Dry Creek Vineyards. This was already a great achievement for me to be assistant winemaker to Roelof Lotriet," she continues. Yet again, Nongcebo's diligence and hard work paid off, and although she was not expecting the accolade, she was

ultimately handed the winemaker reins at Delheim Estate.

"I believe being assistant for a number of years put me in an excellent position to understand the vines and the style of wines that best suit our terroir, so that taking the next step was not a massive hurdle."

#### **MORE ACCOLADES**

In 2022, Nongcebo was asked to join Christoph Hammel of Hammel Wines in Germany to create a wine for him at the German winery, giving her further insight into creating wines in the Pfalz region.

Nongcebo has also completed the

Michael Fridjon Wine Judging course and achieved a distinction, and from this, she has been an associate judge at The Trophy Wine Show and Chenin Blanc Association, and was selected to be a judge at the South African Shiraz competition.

Moreover, in October 2022, Nongcebo was the general winner in management at the Western Cape Prestige Agriculture Awards. In 2023, she was invited to speak at the Forbes Woman Africa Summit on the panel: 'Blood, Sweat & Cheers', where she shared the stage with prominent industry professionals.

#### **WINNING WAYS**



Nongcebo is no stranger to the Diners Club Young Winemaker of the Year competition, as she was also nominated as a finalist in the 2022 contest, which she describes as “a very proud and inspiring experience for me”. Of the competition, she says, “It is wonderful in that it offers young, up-and-coming winemakers a platform to showcase what they are capable of and allows them the opportunity to take centre stage. Being a nominee means you are among the best of the best, which is already a reward. Winning the competition not only offers the grand prize, but will cement the extraordinary ability of the winemaker to produce more than quality wines, but award-winning wines.”

Of her winning wine, the 2022 Delheim Gewürztraminer, Diners Club’s newest Young Winemaker of the Year, says, “The Gewürztraminer offers something exotic and enticing for the novice and seasoned wine drinker. It tows that thin line of balance between sweetness and acidity and fruit. It’s wonderfully aromatic and is a great accompaniment to curry dishes.” 🍷

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by **bernie hellberg jr**  
/ photography by **ryan abbott**



# WHERE SERVICE BECOMES THERAPY

## *In Africa's Most Illustrious Wine Valley*

**Fleur du Soleil guesthouse is more than just a nexus of Franschhoek's gastronomical and oenological hotspots, it's a paradigm where hospitality and personalized service are deliciously transformative.**

For the affluent modern traveller, adjectives like 'five-star luxury' and 'quality service' are no longer sufficient to entice any accommodation, even at the uppermost echelons.

Greta Garbo fondly referred to West Hollywood's uber-trendy Chateau Marmont as "home" during her extended stays, sometimes lasting several months. Diva Mariah Carey felt the same adoration towards Manhattan's Plaza Hotel. For two women whose notoriety could open any door in the world, what drew them to these locales?

Beyond the most breathtaking of settings, the most indulgent of amenities, and the most opulent of interiors, when selecting a hotel or guesthouse, the guest experience is hollow, daresay pedestrian, without real and genuine care at the heart of its service offering. When care exists to this extent, service becomes more than just small acts attempting to provide the best experience – it becomes a form of therapy, a remedial escape where guests emerge acutely transformed, restored, and even healed.

Simply put, the owners and staff at Fleur du Soleil exude this depth of care

and hospitality. It's in their very lifeblood. With a mission to make the impossible possible, attention to detail is a moment-to-moment habit, not a daily task actioned via some perfunctory checklist.

With a finger on Franschhoek's heartbeat, the concierge team is your best bet for discovering this food and wine capital's most exclusive and unexpected vineyards and eateries. Be it a seasonal Michelin star culinary experience at JAN Franschhoek enwrapped by endless lavender fields or gourmet popcorn and wine pairing at whimsical Old Road Wine & Co., you're guaranteed an otherworldly sensory adventure during your stay. Other must-visits include:

- Le coin Français for cutting edge 'art on a plate'
- Cosecha for flavour-filled, small plate Latin American cuisine
- Mullineaux & Leeu for a bottle (or two) of their ethereal Olerasay


You also needn't travel far to satisfy your appetite, culinary or epicurean.

Fleur du Soleil's daily breakfast is its very own découverte of the Franschhoek Valley. With a farm-to-fork approach served with old-fashioned passion, voluptuous seasonal fruits and organic produce are hand-selected from

neighbouring sustainable farms and producers, while freshly baked croissants are room-delivered each morning, served with mouthwatering handmade artisanal preserves. Guest suite mini bars are a cornucopia of local delights – candies, snacks, and juices, thoughtfully curated and African-inspired.

For wine lovers, an impressive selection of fine wines and aperitifs are offered at the bar, a leisurely stroll from your room. A sommelier in his own right, one of the owners has made available an enviable array of superior labels to keep you well-satiated.

From the everyday to the extraordinary, Fleur du Soleil's team is poised to make guests' every request a reality. In a place where everything you touch, taste, feel, and see is an immersion into South Africa's vibrant and eclectic culture, your experience in terms of heartfelt service and personalized care is wholly therapeutic.

To book your stay or for more information, contact the concierge team at [bookings@fleur-du-soleil.com](mailto:bookings@fleur-du-soleil.com), call +27 60 808 8905, or visit [www.fleur-du-soleil.com](http://www.fleur-du-soleil.com). 

by **fleur du soleil**





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## LIFESTYLE

### ON A BOLD ADVENTURE TO NEW HEIGHTS

For any explorer, the journey is never over. There are always new horizons to discover, new boundaries to push and new heights to reach. Montblanc Explorer expresses the irrepressible spirit of adventure and the extraordinary environments in which explorers thrive, offering every Montblanc Explorer hero the opportunity to challenge his limits once again. Just as the adventurer answers the call of the wild as he embarks

on a new adventure into the unknown, the Explorer fragrance story continues with Montblanc Explorer Platinum. The new addition to the Explorer collection captures the thrill and beauty of a journey to higher altitudes with a powerful woody fragrance and enhanced bottle design. The journey to the summit is challenging and unpredictable, but perhaps the most exhilarating and inspiring.

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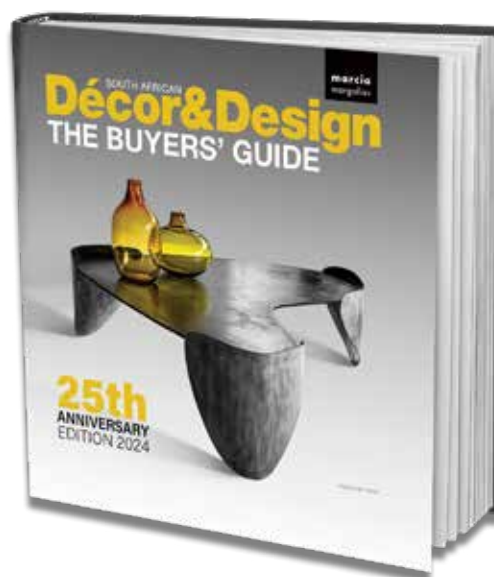


### PLAY THE BLING GAME

Launched in response to overwhelming demand from Pandora's fans, the Game of Thrones x Pandora collection consists of 12 pieces, including a Dragon Egg Charm, a Targaryen Crown Ring, and Dragon Earrings. Each piece from the collection shares a story, inviting wearers to express themselves through the themes explored across the series in their own unique way. Crafted from sterling silver with a textured scale effect and a crack studded with sparkling cubic zirconia, the Dragon Egg Charm represents the beginning of the dragon story that runs through the narrative of the series, while the Dragon Earrings curl around the earlobe in striking sterling silver and can be worn as one or stacked with both on one ear. [za.pandora.net](http://za.pandora.net)

### DÉCOR THAT DELIGHTS

The SA Décor & Design Buyers' Guide is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by reintroducing its printed version alongside its successful digital platform. The guide serves as a popular resource for professionals and enthusiasts in the interior sector. The printed edition, in response to industry demand, showcases suppliers and connects buyers in a visually captivating manner with vibrant photographs and a user-friendly system of icons. The guide has transformed the way buyers connect with suppliers, providing a comprehensive 504-page tome adorned with full-page spreads. The digital platform, with over 60,000 monthly visitors, remains the go-to source for industry trends, suppliers, professionals, and expertise in South Africa's décor and design industry. [www.sadecor.co.za](http://www.sadecor.co.za)





# THE WINE ROOM



# THE MOVEMENT OF CHANGE

## *Designing for Tomorrow for Over 75 Years*

**A new chapter has begun at Michel Herbelin, the venerable French watchmaker with a legacy spanning more than 75 years. Having designed timeless timepieces for two generations, the arrival of the third generation at the helm brings with it new ambitions of creativity, style, and technical prowess, aiming to leave an even more indelible mark on the world of French watchmaking.**

In this new era, a fresh name takes root. While the heritage of Michel Herbelin remains firmly ingrained in the brand's identity, HERBELIN now signifies a family success story and marks the emergence of an emblematic luxury brand. The name embodies all generations of excellence, past and future, and all the artisans who create exceptional timepieces daily. It proudly bears the French signature of an ambitious vision.

Today, it is the driving force behind the creative independence and superior quality that HERBELIN is known for. HERBELIN is not just about watches; it's about heritage, family, freedom, and now, it's about the future.

### **LUXURY CUSTODIAN SINCE 1947**

For generations, HERBELIN has been the custodian of French know-how. Their timepieces are timeless, where technical achievement meets design and elegance. This know-how reflects their unwavering passion for

detail, encapsulated in their love of beauty and movement. This is what it means to be a keeper of time, French-style, ready to design the future for the international market. HERBELIN has been a contemporary watchmaker since 1947.

To mark the brand's renewal, HERBELIN opened its first flagship boutique in 2022, located on Rue Bonaparte in Paris. This elegant address serves as a platform to extend its reputation globally, showcasing the brand's iconic models and providing a sophisticated meeting place for style enthusiasts.

The legendary Saint-Germain-des-Prés district, known for its cultural and intellectual history in Paris, was chosen for its chic and refined spirit. Reflecting the style of the French brand, the space is a beautiful tribute to the spirit of the arrondissement.

### **NEWPORT - ENTER THE TIME RACE**

The Newport timepiece embarked on its journey in 1988, and this nautical-inspired model invites you to traverse






time with elegance, power, and precision. It symbolizes performance as a figurehead. In 2023, HERBELIN celebrates the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Newport by expanding the collections associated with the maritime world. From Newport Automatic, Classics, and Heritage to Slim, the designs continue to push boundaries from technical performance to design, all powered by Swiss movements, combined with the elegance of French design.

HERBELIN Newport Carbon

Titanium, released as a limited edition of 500 numbered pieces worldwide, features a regatta countdown and promises to be a reliable companion in pushing the boundaries of performance. With the wind at its back, this timepiece is a high-tech marvel thanks to its materials, watchmaker features, and streamlined design.

HERBELIN, with its rich heritage and a commitment to pushing the boundaries of timekeeping, is poised for a promising future. The brand's

dedication to French design, technical excellence, and elegance continues to resonate with watch enthusiasts worldwide. As the third generation takes the reins, the legacy of Michel HERBELIN evolves into HERBELIN, signalling a new chapter in the brand's storied history.

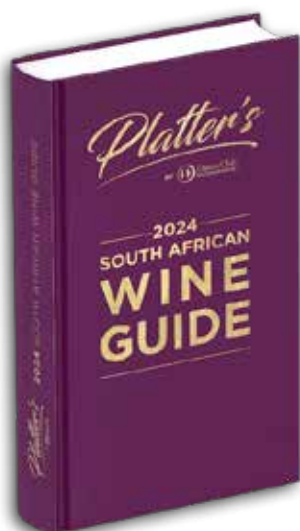
For more information, please visit [www.herbelin.co.za](http://www.herbelin.co.za). 

by **micel herbelin**

# PLATTER'S GUIDE IS IN THE AIR

## *2024 Platter's by Diners Club South African Wine Guide*

There is always an air of expectation in the Cape's Winelands during the first weeks of November, as that's when South Africa's favourite wine guide is sent to the printer, an event which those in the know understand to mean the announcement of its highest accolades is imminent.



With its eye-catching cover design and wide-ranging content, Platter's by Diners Club South African Wine Guide has been an industry institution and a best-selling hardcover book for decades. The edition about to hit the shelves, the 2024, is the 44<sup>th</sup>.

The guide features over 900 producers, merchants, and brands, and over 8,000 locally produced wines, as well as brandies, husk spirits (grappa) and sherry-style wines.

Wines receiving a prestigious five-star rating must undergo a rigorous sighted and blind assessment process (with and without sight of the label) by a team of experienced experts. Bottlings that are judged to be "Superlative, a South African classic", are given the highest ranking of five stars, equal to 95 points or better on the 100-point rating scale.

Of the five-star-awarded wines, the top performer within each category receives the coveted accolade of Wine

of the Year.

Then there are the three Winery of the Year awards: Top Performing Winery of the Year goes to the winery that achieves the most five-star results after the annual final tasting round; Newcomer Winery of the Year is awarded to the producer who debuted in Platter's in the current year and achieved the highest ratings at the five-star tasting; and Editor's Award Winery of the Year, recognising a winegrowing team (or teams) who are ambassadors par excellence for South African wine.

### **WHERE TO FIND PLATTER'S BY DINERS CLUB**

There's the iconic hardcover version, distributed nationwide, its annually changing cover colour brightening up home libraries across the country and around the world. The Platterati are already speculating about the new colour.

Less visible perhaps, but equally valuable to the wine lover, are the digital versions of the guide – the website,





wineonaplatter.com, the apps and e-books.

The web-based version (accessed via Wineonaplatter.com) is the flagship, with a range of value-added features such as advanced search, news, shopping and information about wine-country accommodation, specialist tour operators and dining options among the vines.

For those who know the hardcover Platter's, and prefer a digital experience that is more like the physical book, there is the e-book to consider. It is downloadable to any device that runs the Kindle free e-reader app. Beyond looking exactly like the book, the e-book offers the benefits inherent in the electronic book format, such as bookmarking, search, multiple navigation options, and hyperlinked websites and email addresses.

The apps have been designed to provide the quickest and most direct access to the wine descriptions and ratings – ideal for when you are in a restaurant and presented with multiple

options on the winelist, or in a retail outlet with many different wines arrayed on the shelves. With “Platter's In Your Pocket”, you can hone in on the most important details for making an informed decision, with the option to read about the wine producer, any other wines in the portfolio, older releases and more, when there is time.

In addition to serving as your digital sommelier, Platter's app is intended to ease and inform your travels around the Winelands. With a single tap, you can see which wineries are in your area and get directions to the venue of your choice via the built-in map.

Ongoing digital development sees new features added and existing ones updated, with the core aim of serving aficionados during all stages of their wine journey.

For more information, please visit [www.wineonaplatter.com](http://www.wineonaplatter.com). 

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by *philip van zyl*  
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# WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF

## *Ferrari Roma Spider Driven in Sardinia*

The spirit of mid-century Italian elegance and indulgence is reborn in the all-new Roma Spider. This stunning convertible inherits the proportions, volumes, and specifications of the highly acclaimed Ferrari Roma while reintroducing a soft-top element that hasn't graced a front-engine Ferrari in 54 years since the iconic 1969 365 GTS4.

My arrival at Cagliari Airport, in Sardinia, as the island's ambient temperature soared into the mid-thirties, marked the beginning of a captivating journey on the enchanting island of Sardinia, where Ferrari unveiled its first front-engine soft-top grand tourer in half a century.

The last Prancing Horse to sport a soft top was the mid-engine F430 Spider, revealed at the 2005 Geneva Motor Show and remained in production until 2009. While the F430 remains a remarkable car, the new Roma Spider pays homage to the golden era of Italian sports tourers from the 1950s and 1960s, particularly the legendary 365GTS/4 Daytona Spyder, which boasted the last cloth top and a front-mid engine configuration.

### THE ESSENCE OF FERRARI

Though a modern take on a classic









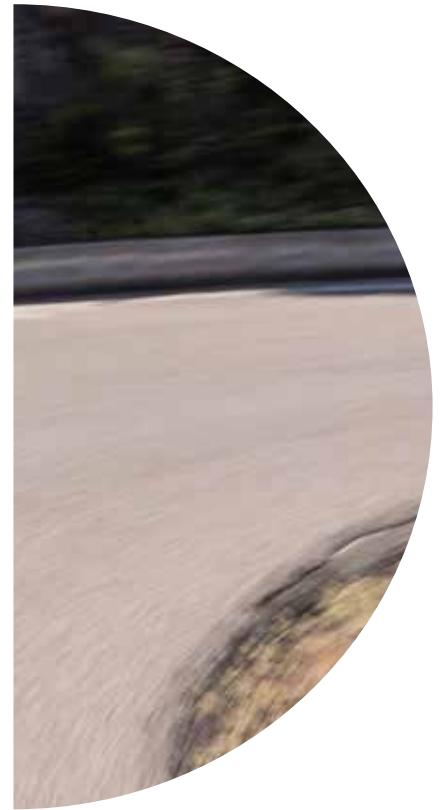


icon, the Roma Spider embodies the essence of a contemporary Ferrari – a symbol of style, performance, and purity. Crafted by the Ferrari Styling Centre, it presented engineers with a unique challenge: maintaining the Roma's elegant lines in a soft-top form. The 2+ Spider features a sophisticated fabric top designed to enhance the coupe's proportions without altering its flowing silhouette. Redesigning the coupe's fastback roofline required some changes, such as modifying the rear screen to fold below the tonneau cover when open. The result is a seamlessly integrated tonneau cover that visually connects with the rear bench and headrests when the top is down.

Ferrari introduced a new fabric for the Roma Spider's roof, available in four colours to match the car's exterior and highlight the Spider's sporty and elegant duality. An optional technical fabric was designed specifically for the Roma Spider, featuring a red thread woven into the textured roof material, creating







a striking red finish that enhances the roof's three-dimensional surface. This five-layer fabric roof deploys in just 13.5 seconds and can be raised or lowered while driving at speeds up to 60 km/h. Unlike the retractable hardtop used in its predecessor, the Roma Spider offers more luggage space with the roof folded. Ferrari also developed a patented wind deflector that effectively minimizes wind intrusion into the cabin.

Chassis modifications were necessary to compensate for the absence of a fixed roof, with reinforced sills, similar to those used on the Portofino M, added to enhance structural integrity. Despite the added reinforcement, the Spider's overall weight only increased by a modest 83 kg compared to the Roma coupe.

#### **DUAL CABIN CONCEPT**

In line with the Ferrari Roma, the Roma Spider adopts the "dual cabin concept," inspired by classic Ferrari designs from the 1970s. This layout creates separate spaces for the driver

and passenger, wrapping around them to enhance the feeling of participation, even for those not behind the wheel. The Roma Spider's steering wheel features touch controls on its spokes, designed with the "eyes on the road, hands on the wheel" philosophy in mind. It simplifies controls and offers a range of functions, with a comprehensive handover and explanation provided to new owners.

The Spider features an integrated 16" digital instrument cluster and an 8.4" display set between the two cockpits, offering infotainment and climate controls. The passenger can access an optional display to share driving information. The F1 gearbox controls, inspired by iconic gear lever gates, are positioned in the tunnel's centre for ease of access and visibility.

Driving a convertible Ferrari is a uniquely memorable experience, and doing so in its home country adds an extra layer of distinction. Crafted in Modena, the Roma Spider's launch drive along the Sardinian coastline showcased



its dual nature, seamlessly transitioning between an elegant classic tourer and a high-performance Italian supercar.

The Roma Spider inherits the Roma's excellent dynamic traits, thanks to its all-aluminium chassis and the 3.9-litre 465 kW bi-turbo V8 from the renowned F154 engine family. This engine, combined with Ferrari's eight-speed DCT, ensures rapid shifts and outstanding comfort and efficiency.

It's important to note that the Roma Spider is not a compromise over its fixed-roof counterpart. Unlike some convertibles, which require post-production reinforcement to compensate for the lack of a fixed

roof, the Roma Spider's structure was developed alongside the coupe from the start.

In Sport mode, the steering and turn-in response is exceptionally sensitive, with a slight chassis roll that adds to its engaging nature. The Roma Spider boasts remarkable grip and agility, exuding character and charisma, while the Ferrari V8 soundtrack plays in the background, providing a unique auditory experience.

The Ferrari Roma Spider's engine sound is distinctive, featuring a flat-plane crankshaft, equal-length exhaust headers, and a continuous by-pass valve control that adapts to the Manettino setting and driving situation.

#### TAMING THE BEAST

Ferrari's engineers have achieved a remarkable feat by preserving the coupe's exceptional handling and dynamics while adding a new dimension to the driving experience without a fixed roof. The Roma Spider, with its soft top, pays a perfect homage to Ferrari's heritage, becoming one of the marque's most aesthetically pleasing cars. While maintaining the Roma's impressive performance, it adds a touch of composure that cements its place in Ferrari history as one of the most versatile and enjoyable models ever created. 



A full-page advertisement featuring Lando Norris, a McLaren Formula 1 driver. He is standing on a gravel surface, leaning against the front of a bright orange McLaren Formula 1 car. He is wearing a light grey long-sleeved shirt, light grey cargo pants, and white sneakers. He has a dark blue Tumi backpack with orange accents on his back. The background shows a white wall and a green hedge. The Tumi logo is prominently displayed in the center of the image.

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# AN EXCEPTIONAL LIFESTYLE

*Setting the Stage at Steyn City*

**At Steyn City, the stage is set for an endless summer. This magnificent residential lifestyle estate (one of the top 10 in the world, according to New World Wealth) has everything you need to make every day a holiday.**

What do you enjoy most about the annual holiday season? For many of us, it's the luxury of the occasion. And this is where Steyn City excels: every house, whether a freehold, convenient cluster or stunning apartment, has been carefully designed so that every aspect – view, fittings, finishes – is a celebration of the senses. Each has its own unique character – which is why it's a good idea to visit the newly opened show homes at 104 on Creek, an address featuring beautiful resort-style apartments, and City Centre, Steyn City's flagship apartment development, where urban living is given a brand new take.

Of course, a fantastic place to stay isn't the only thing that makes a holiday special. That holiday feeling comes about from having wonderful activities and adventures to experience. At Steyn City, that starts at the lagoon facility. An attraction, thanks to its 300-metre expansive lagoon where you can enjoy a day at the beach, complete with pedalos, volleyball, SUP boards, kayaks, and waterslides, the lagoon is now even

better than before. While it's perfectly acceptable to do nothing more than soak up the sun, you can also book a braai pod or share plate after plate of Mediterranean-style fare at the Family Table lagoon-side restaurant. There's also the Family Pantry, a convenience store where you can stock up on snacks, and the Seattle Coffee Co. to satisfy your coffee cravings. The final touch? Padel courts, because the latest sporting craze sweeping South Africa cannot be ignored.

## **SHOPPING, TRAINING, AND MORE**

For many, the extra time that's part and parcel of a holiday isn't just for catching up on the latest series or novel; it is for connecting with friends. That's where Steyn City's range of eateries comes in: enjoy the stunning views over the golf course at Nineteen by Michael, revel in an authentic Italian feast at Café del Sol Steyn City, relax at the family-centric environment at The Farmhouse with their lush lawns and child-friendly play areas, fuel up at Seattle Coffee Co., or keep it decadent at Paul's Homemade Ice Cream.

For those who enjoy a bit of a challenge, there's no better time than the holidays to ramp up training. Steyn City offers a wide range of facilities to help you be your best: the floodlit 45km promenade for running, the 50km MTB track and the indoor aquatic centre. The estate is so well suited to athletic pursuits that it has become a permanent home to three key events on South Africa's sporting calendar: 947 Ride Joburg MTB races, the RMB Grit Race, and the Auto & General Cross Triathlon.

Some feel that holidays should be all about pleasure, and Steyn City steps up here, too, with glorious retail therapy at the vibrant piazza at City Centre, where colourful cookware brand Le Creuset and the Gallery at Steyn City are the stars of the show. And, for those who define pleasure as time spent in nature, there's the glorious 2,000-acre parkland, where special features include the magnificent artworks making up the outdoor gallery and children's play nodes.

If connecting with nature is what you love best, there's no better place to do it than on the greens. Steyn City's





Club precinct encompasses the 18-hole Nicklaus-design championship golf course, award-winning clubhouse and halfway house, pro shop and five-star changing facilities. This hub has recently received an upgraded practice facility. And for those passionate about equestrian activities, the estate boasts a world-class facility complete with its own clubhouse. Embarking on an out-ride along one of our scenic horse trails will immerse you in


a captivating outdoor experience.

That's not the only recent addition to the estate: brand-new storage units are a true boon for those who need a little extra space without having to leave home.

All amenities can be enjoyed with complete peace of mind thanks to outstanding security measures.

It's a small wonder that Steyn City makes every day feel like a holiday – but when the holidays end, it's ready to help

with AAA-Grade offices at Capital Park and the Steyn City School campus. With a shuttle service ready to help you beat the morning commute, you can hang on to that sunshine feeling even when deadlines loom.

For more information, please visit [www.steyncity.co.za](http://www.steyncity.co.za). 

by **steyn city**

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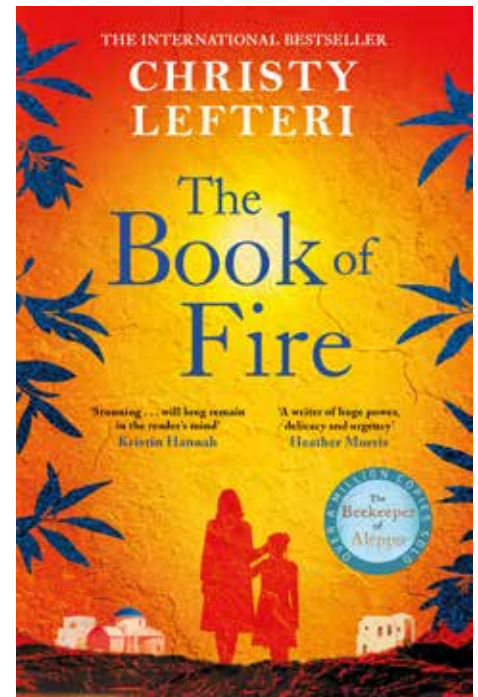




## THE BURNOUT

Sasha is well and truly over it all: work (all-consuming), friendships (on the back burner), sex life (non-existent), and has hit a brick wall. Armed with good intentions to drink kale smoothies, try yoga and find solitude, she heads to the Devon resort she loved as a child. But it's off-season, the hotel is falling

apart, and now she has to share the beach with someone else: a grumpy, stressed-out guy called Finn. How can she commune with nature when he's sitting on a rock, watching her? Especially when they don't agree on burnout cures (Sasha: manifesting, wild swimming, secret Mars bars; Finn: drinking whisky)?



## THE BOOK OF FIRE

In a tiny, beautiful Greek village, deep in an ancient forest, live a family – Irini, Tasso and their daughter, Chara. One day, their world is rocked when a forest fire consumes the village, leaving houses burned and lives irreparably damaged. But while Tasso and Chara struggle to find the courage to bear what has happened, Irini is tormented by guilt for her part in the fate of the man who started the fire. This is a captivating, moving novel of survival, hope and redemption, as epic as it is intimate, set against the tormented landscape of our changing world.

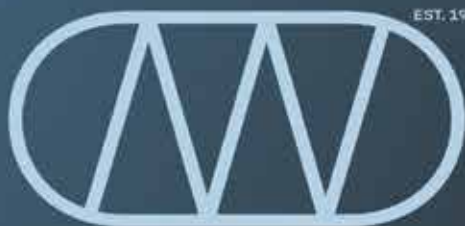


## WONKA

Based on the extraordinary character at the centre of Roald Dahl's iconic children's book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Wonka* tells the wondrous story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the beloved Willy Wonka (Chalamet).

This inventive movie will introduce audiences to a young Willy Wonka, chock-full of ideas and determined to change the world one delectable bite at a time – proving that the best things in life begin with a dream, and if you're lucky enough to meet Willy Wonka, anything is possible.





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# TASTE THE FUTURE

## *2023 Diners Club Young Winemaker of the Year Finalists*

In the 2023 Diners Club Young Winemaker of the Year competition, six finalists battled it out to discover the best of the best white wines available in South Africa today.

While there can be only one winner, we went behind the scenes for a glimpse into the future of South African winemaking. 







*Morgan Steyn – De Grendel 2022 Op die Berg Chardonnay*



*Marnich Aucamp – Welmoed 2021 Credo Chardonnay*



*Michelle Waldeck*  
– Benguela Cove 2019 Catalina Semillon





*Richard Schroeder – Groot Phesantekraal 2022 Marizanne Sauvignon Blanc*







# UNWIND IN THE WILDERNESS

*Wellness Safaris at Thornybush*

**Thornybush Game Lodge has announced the launch of the Thornybush Africology Spa & Wellness Centre. This expansion introduces Wellness Safari experiences into the offering.**

Carefully curated by Artichoke, the Thornybush Spa & Wellness Centre harmonises with the four elements of nature: earth, water, air, and fire. Each element is thoughtfully incorporated to create a serene and grounding atmosphere, providing guests with a natural sense of wellness.

A focal point of the wellness facility is the wellness swimming pool, seamlessly blending with the organic shape of the nearby riverbed, invoking a profound connection with the water element.

## DESIGNED TO REJUVENATE

Emphasising the air element, the building's design features open spaces that seamlessly merge with nature, allowing fresh air to flow throughout

the spaces. This encourages a feeling of rejuvenation and a deeper connection with the surrounding bush and riverbed. The fire element is beautifully represented through a colour palette inspired by warm autumn hues, particularly focusing on the burnt orange colour.

The Wellness Centre offers an array of facilities, including three treatment rooms, an infrared sauna, gym, yoga deck, and pool. The wellness juice bar offers healthy and delicious cold-pressed juices and shots. The double treatment rooms, situated on the river edge with adjoining decks, offer tranquil views of the bush, providing the perfect setting for various healing body treatments, massages, body wraps, scrubs, facials, manicures, pedicures, and waxing services. The infrared sauna features the latest technology for detoxification,

allowing guests to relax and rehabilitate their muscles after a workout, spa treatment, or yoga session.

## WELLNESS SAFARI

Wellness at Thornybush extends beyond the bush spa, offering guests the unique opportunity to embark on Wellness Safaris – a new concept experience. Guests can enjoy immersive three-hour safari walks, allowing health and wellness enthusiasts to reconnect with nature and foster a sense of balance and tranquillity.

For more information, please visit [www.thornybush.com](http://www.thornybush.com). 

by *marina carlaw*  
/ photography by *thornybush game lodge*





## Shumbalala Game Lodge - An African Dream

In the vast wilderness of South Africa's hot northern plains, adjacent to the famous Kruger National Park, deep within an ancient tapestry of natural wonder, you will chance upon SHUMBALALA GAME LODGE.

From your early morning game drive or bush walk in the Big 5 Thornybush Game Reserve to lazy afternoons at the pool and a sunset safari, tales of the day are told in the wine cellar as you prepare for a sumptuous dinner fire-side al fresco or candle-lit indoors. Choose from four luxury suites or the Presidential Suite, all of which have private viewing decks and picture window bathrooms. Wake up knowing that each day will allow for the adventure and peace of Africa to enter your soul – in a place where the lion sleeps.

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