

AN ICONIC QUARTET

*Four Restaurants Earn Top Honours at the
2025 Diners Club Winelist Awards*

In a country blessed with world-class wines and an increasingly sophisticated dining scene, a great wine list can be the difference between a memorable meal and an exceptional one. Each year, the Diners Club Winelist Awards celebrate the restaurants that have elevated the art of wine curation, recognising establishments that not only showcase outstanding local and international labels but also create truly world-class experiences for their guests. For 2025, four restaurants earned the prestigious Icon Award, the highest honour in the programme.

For more than 30 years, the Diners Club Winelist Awards have recognised excellence in wine programmes across South Africa's hospitality industry. In 2025, four restaurants earned the competition's highest accolade, the coveted Icon Award, underscoring their status as among the country's leading wine destinations.





This year's Diners Club Winelist Icon Award recipients are:

- Kievits Kroon Gauteng Wine Estate, Pretoria
- Verdicchio Restaurant & Wine Cellar, Fourways
- Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa, Sandton
- Rooi at One&Only, Cape Town

LEFT TO RIGHT: *Esh Naidoo (Diners Club SA Managing Director), Nadine Quinn (Kievits Kroon Deputy General Manager), and Francois Stremmelaar (Kievits Kroon General Manager)*





LEFT TO RIGHT: *Lloyd Jusa (Saxcon Head Sommelier),
Ayanda Magele (Saxcon Hotel Sommelier),
and Esh Naidoo (Diners Club S.A Managing Director)*

THE PINNACLE OF WINE EXCELLENCE

Presented annually as part of the Diners Club Winelist Awards, the Icon distinction represents the pinnacle of wine list achievement in South Africa. Restaurants awarded Icon status are judged to offer wine programmes of international calibre, combining exceptional depth, diversity and curation with a commitment to outstanding guest experiences.

The awards are structured into five tiers: Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond, and Icon. While Diamond status already signifies an exceptional wine offering, the Icon Award is reserved for establishments that go even further.

To qualify, restaurants must demonstrate an extensive international wine selection, strong representation across multiple wine categories,

noteworthy reserve and vintage collections, and a carefully considered approach to wine curation. A dedicated full-time sommelier is also a prerequisite.

SETTING THE BENCHMARK

The 2025 awards were adjudicated by a panel comprising respected figures from South Africa's wine, food and hospitality sectors. Their assessment reflected both local excellence and international trends in wine service and presentation.

Three of the four Icon Award winners are located in Gauteng, highlighting the province's growing reputation as a destination for serious wine enthusiasts. Meanwhile, Cape Town's Rooi at One&Only secured the Western Cape's sole Icon Award, reinforcing the city's standing as one of the country's premier culinary and wine destinations.

Introduced in 2018, the Icon Award remains the highest recognition available within the Diners Club Winelist Awards programme. Its stringent criteria ensure that only a select group of restaurants achieve the distinction each year.

The awards continue to evolve with global hospitality trends, reflecting Diners Club's longstanding commitment to service excellence and to promoting world-class dining experiences in South Africa.

For more, visit www.dinersclub.co.za/news-events/winelist-awards. 

by **diners club**