

BOTTOMS UP

Jim Hislop's take on what's happening in the winelands, tasting news, views and more...

Newsflash

HELPING HAND FOR CELLAR WORKERS

Good news! The Cape Winemakers Guild has teamed up with Wine Training South Africa (WTSA) to speed up access to formal training for cellar workers, so they can become skilled winemaker's assistants and more.

Two of the Guild members have been appointed as directors of WTSA and a donation of R200 000 has been made for Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) accreditation for a national qualification for cellar workers. For more info on the WTSA cellar worker training courses, call 082 851 3164.



Lovin' it!

Two Jonge Gezellen Krone Borealis

One of the most reasonably priced quality sparkling wines on shelf at the moment. A delicious Tulbagh pinot noir and chardonnay blend with a pleasing dry finish, ideal for a celebration... such as Ronnie Casserole and Dhania Hay's impending nuptials on page 98, perhaps? R95.99.



WINE FARM OF THE MONTH: Zonnebloem

What's not to love about this popular cellar? Since it was established in 1693 at Simondium, near Paarl, it has been part of our wine culture. It was home to SA's first woman winemaker, Marie Furter, in 1940, and the tradition continues with the current red and white winemakers (Bonny van Niekerk and Elize Coetzee), as well as the viticulturalist (Annelie Viljoen). The cellar master is Deon Boshoff, the son of farm workers, who grew up on an apple farm in Elgin. Plus, their wines are nicely priced, with a selection at PnP, from the Blanc De Blanc, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc to the merlot, pinotage and 'cab sauv'. www.zonnebloem.co.za

{ DON'T MISS... }

Walkerville Farmers Market, Gauteng

A great venue for craft beer fanatics to sample offerings from top local micro breweries, or stock up on home-brewing equipment and make your own. Every Saturday. www.wfmarket.co.za

Wellington Wine Harvest Festival

Enjoy top-notch entertainment, sumptuous cuisine and world-class wines in the heart of the Cape Winelands. 15 March. www.harvestfestival.co.za

signature bakes, each paired with Nitida's award-winning wines and MCCs. Live music, stalls and cupcake decorating are some of the activities on offer. 22 March. Tickets available from www.webtickets.co.za. www.nitida.co.za

Eikendal Weintaufe Harvest Celebration

Partake in some grape stomping after the baptism of the new 2015 Eikendal chardonnay (and some wine tasting), then lose yourself in the many other family-friendly activities on offer. 1 March. www.eikendal.com

Nitida Cellarbake

This quirky festival sees the Mother City's top artisanal bakers whipping up their

