



Wine Doyen `Effusive` about Zonnebloem Vintage Cabs



A 50-year-old wine on this year's [Nederburg](#) Auction has attracted the attention of one of the most widely respected wine authorities.

Steven Spurrier, the UK author of many wine books and a doyen among critics and judges, is a wine educator and consultant who has been extensively awarded for his writing and services to wine. He is perhaps best known for organising the famous Judgement of Paris wine tasting in 1976 that saw California trump the French at their own game. In South Africa recently, he tasted three vintage [Zonnebloem](#) Cabernet Sauvignons and was astonished by their quality, highlighting to local wine writer, Christian Eedes, the “extraordinary confidence and warmth about these wines”.

They included the 1965 Zonnebloem Cabernet Sauvignon that will feature on this year's Nederburg Auction, when a six-bottle case wine will go under the hammer.

Spurrier, in the country to judge the wines entered in the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show, sampled the trio of Zonnebloem classics in a line-up of 21 vintage Cape reds presented before the judging began. Eedes, describing the tasting for [WINEmag.co.za](#), wrote that the “three vintages of Zonnebloem Cabernet Sauvignon, namely 1965, 1969 and 1970, were probably the stand-out wines”.

Recalling Spurrier's reaction to the other two Zonnebloem wines, he wrote: “Regarding the 1970, he (Spurrier) said there would not be ‘too many Haut-Medocs to match it’ while the ‘vigour and lift’ of the 1969 impressed him.”

The wine Eedes liked best was the 1965 vintage. “The 1965 was my best wine of the tasting. First of all, most impressive in colour being a clear, bright red. On the nose, red berries, spice and some meat stock. The palate meanwhile still had lovely fruit expression, bright acidity and fine tannins – a fantastic clarity about it. As ever, I was left wondering what precisely did the winemakers back then do to make wines that could mature for 50 years so effortlessly?”

At last year's Nederburg Auction, a six-bottle case of Zonnebloem's 1964 Cabernet Sauvignon went for R30 000.

This year's auction takes place on September 11 and 12.