

# NEWS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



## VERGELEGEN NAMED NEW WORLD WINERY OF THE YEAR

Last year you voted Vergelegen as the country's best winery (see the Reader Poll in the June 2005 issue of WINE magazine). Now US magazine *Wine Enthusiast* has named the Helderberg outfit owned by Anglo American as New World Winery of the Year in their 2005 Wine Star Awards.

Apart from producing "world-class, ultrapremium wines whose quality and pricing match anything from Bordeaux or Napa", the magazine says Vergelegen is "the recognized icon of South African wine" and its "presence places South Africa on an equal footing with any other wine-producing region represented on the US market".

It also highlights Vergelegen's involvement in black economic empowerment and its (sole) champion status in the industry's Biodiversity & Wine Initiative. Meanwhile, "inspired" winemaker André van Rensburg is given credit for Vergelegen's white wines ("recognized greats") and also for bringing its reds to the fore, with last year's launch – the heavily oaked Vergelegen V, of which only 500 cases are made – "on top of the heap".

Not that any of this comes as a surprise to Van Rensburg, who believes that Vergelegen is not just the top winery in the New World but "one of the 10 greatest wine properties in the whole world".

The magazine's European Winery of the Year award went to Champagne Louis Roederer while Australia's Peter Gago, chief winemaker at Penfold's, was named Winemaker of the Year and Chile's Colchagua Valley was voted Wine Region of the Year.

Taste 10 top wines from the 2006 WINE magazine TOPS at SPAR Chenin Blanc Challenge on Monday 27 February at the Arabella Sheraton Grand Hotel in Cape Town and on Friday 3 March at the Park Hyatt in Johannesburg. Cost is R100 per person. To book, call 0860 100 203 or email [smart@rsp.co.za](mailto:smart@rsp.co.za).

## LA CAVE JOINS PINOTAGE ELITE

Wellington winery Wamakersvallei had its La Cave Pinotage 2004 included in the 2005 ABSA Top Ten Pinotage selection, the fourth consecutive year the cellar has achieved this.

This places the cellar at the forefront of SA Pinotage producers, alongside champions like Kanonkop and L'Avenir. Made by Andre Swanepoel, the wine was wood-matured for nine months in mainly French oak.

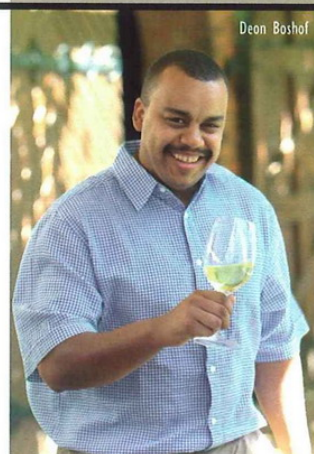
It rated 4 Stars in the January issue of WINE magazine and it's available from the cellar at R87,75 a bottle.

## NEW WINEMAKERS AT ZONNEBLOEM, FLEUR DU CAP

Deon Boshof is a winemaker who wastes no time. Four years after completing his cellar technology studies at Elsenburg and joining Zonnebloem as assistant winemaker, he has been officially appointed as this brand's white winemaker, overseeing about 700 000 litres of wines for Zonnebloem and other wines for producer-wholesaler Distell.

His mission? "To add value to every step of the winemaking process to ensure wines of consistent quality at every level."

Meanwhile, former red wine assistant at Zonnebloem, Justin Corrans, has been named red wine maker at The Bergkelder – home of Fleur du Cap wines. Here he will report to newly appointed cellar master Andrea Freeborough, previously white wine maker at Nederburg.



Deon Boshof