

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2007

### VINEYARD REPORT

Briaan is still pretty confident about the upcoming harvest: "The unseasonal rain poses no real threat as our spraying programme is quite comprehensive. We did have quite a windy October which will cause uneven ripeness, but we can sort that out at crop thinning just after Christmas."

"The vineyards had sufficient cold units and rain during winter to be able to produce top quality, healthy grapes," he continues, "so we are looking forward to a good harvest early next year."

Briaan and white wine maker Francois Weich recently returned from a trip to the USA where they were able to see first hand how it's done there. "Overall their industry is more mechanised and ours more labour intensive, so we are able to pay more attention to aspects such as canopy management. Everyone was really friendly and showed us around happily. We learnt a lot, but we came home confident that we're on par in every sphere."



### WILLIAM ROBERTSON 7-YEAR POTSTILL BRANDY: THE PERFECT GIFT



The long-awaited William Robertson POT STILL BRANDY has just been released. "This is a very special brandy because it is 100% pot-stilled," explains winemaker Jacques Roux. "In other words, we didn't add any white spirits, as is allowed, and we didn't add any caramel to enhance the colour. All the wine is simply distilled Robertson Colombard that has been aged in barrels for a maximum of 7 years. While this is a very costly option, it means that the brandy exhibits maximum flavour and complexity. The only addition to the distillate has been the addition of natural spring water from the Retreat farm, to bring the alcohol level down to the required 38% level.

"This is a spectacular brandy and should be savoured on its own," says Jacques. "Delicious aromas of chocolate, vanilla and spice waft out of the glass, hinting at its excellent, pure quality.

This brandy is available in very limited quantities and only from the tasting centre in Robertson. It sells for R200 per bottle.

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR

First an engagement, then a wedding, and then a baby!

When Karin van Veijeren heard she'd won a weekend away for two to Robertson she immediately thought of her daughter, Aneen. She and her boyfriend, Harold Nel, had been together for 7 years, and "the ring" had already been purchased, so Karin thought perhaps Harold was waiting for the ideal opportunity to pop the question.

He jumped at the chance and invited Aneen for a mystery weekend away. She was none the wiser when they arrived at the Balindry guest house in Robertson, but began to smell a rat when dinner was laid for two on their private patio, complete with rose petals and candles. It wasn't long before Harold was on bended knee before Aneen, asking for her hand in marriage. She said "yes" of course, and the two enjoyed a fabulous weekend together in celebration, touring the valley all courtesy of Robertson Winery.



Bowen Botha's PA Nadia Tait recently tied the knot with long-time boyfriend Conraad Swart. They were married in the beautiful church in nearby Rawsonville and celebrated at the scenic Opstal winery.

Originally both from Touwsriver the two met while Nadia was still at school in Worcester 8 years ago. The couple has since settled in Robertson.

Brand Manager Gaenor Udemans is expecting a baby boy early in the New Year which means she will be off on maternity leave until mid-2008. "Gaenor has done wonders for the Robertson Winery brand," enthuses Barry Kok, "so while we wish her well, we are really looking forward to having her back in the office."

## ROBERTSON WINERY SHOWS ITS SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Robertson Winery will be sponsoring a classroom in the Graham & Rhona Beck Skills Centre, which is currently being built in the Robertson Valley.



Skills development has been identified as one of the most important focuses in developing people in order to alleviate poverty and contribute to economic growth in South Africa. The Graham & Rhona Beck Skills Centre, which should be up and running in May 2008, focuses on upgrading particularly the women and youth of the entire Breede River Valley.

The Skills Centre will act mainly as facilitator for skills delivery in the area by matching training supply and demand, and by providing a world-class training venue and facilities. Besides teaching specific skills such as welding, masonry, forklift driving and computers, the centre will also offer career guidance centre for the youth. More advanced courses in management, financial planning and supervisory skills are also on the cards.

Centre Manager, Myra Hoffman is very excited about the project: "Our aim is that this centre will be utilised as a place of learning for all the citizens in the Breede River."

By sponsoring a classroom Robertson Winery ensures that its employees will have access to a wide range of skills training on the premises.

## KNOCK OUT ROUND FOR ROBERTSON WINERY IN THE LATEST PLATTER WINE GUIDE

If you open the newly published John Platter Wine Guide at Robertson Winery, you'll be seeing stars! Not only are all the Vineyard Selection wines been printed in red, but they've all been awarded at least 4 stars, the No.1 Constitution Rd Shiraz and the Retreat Sauvignon Blanc winning 4½ stars.

The Robertson Winery Retreat Sauvignon Blanc 2007 is described as having "clean-cut elegance, abundant grassy nettles and fig leaf, refreshing racy acidity; long herbaceous finish". The taster can't decide whether he wants another glass, or another bottle it is so delicious.

The Robertson Winery No.1 Constitution Rd Shiraz 2004 is described as having "good potential" with "succulent, medium-bodied, sweet spice and savoury nuances continuing on sustained finish". This wine is Robertson Winery's flagship and represents a barrel selection from their Wolfkloof Shiraz Vineyard. It is therefore produced in very limited quantities so you might find it difficult to get your hands on a bottle.

However, don't despair, the 2005 vintage has just been released and promises to maintain the high standards set by its predecessors. Winemaker Jacques Roux describes it as being "a deep rich purple colour with an intense aroma of dark ripe black berries, seductive spicy fruit and black pepper. It has a velvety palate with supple fine-grained tannins combining well with the French oak." Once again, limited quantities of this collectors' item are available only from the Winery itself or in selected wine shops countrywide.





## GIVEAWAY

It's the time of giving and festivities and therefore Robertson Winery is giving away a 2 bottle gift pack with John Platter 2007 to the first 5 people that reply to our December newsletter.



**Your friends at Robertson Winery  
remind you to drink responsibly  
this festive season.**



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