

For immediate release

Gold Wine Awards 2018 reveals Great Value Wines after two days of intense tasting

August 3rd, 2018

It was an intense two days of sniffing, swirling and spitting for a team of wine lovers, to select the best value wines in South Africa. The Gold Wine Awards is a consumer-judged competition that endeavours to put a seal of excellence on wines delivering quality at a reasonable price, thereby guiding the wine buying public. The double blind tasting was audited by Theron du Plessis Chartered & Professional Accountants (SA) of Somerset West.

The food and drinks sector is experiencing high inflation, making a value driven competition more valuable to the wine buying public. The Gold Wine Awards assists wine lovers, making it easier to make more informed wine buying choices. This year entries showed good growth, which is a sure indicator of the importance that this competition is garnering in the industry.

South Africa, as a global rising star in the value for money wine bracket, should not be underestimated, and as usual the best wineries always seem to come through. Consumers who enjoy a wine bargain will be in good cheer as the Gold Wine Awards 2018 reveals the Top 5 EWP (Excellent Wine at the Price) brands.



The Top 5 Excellent Wine at the Price Brands were:

1. Cederberg Cellars
2. Klein Roosboom Boutique Cellar
3. Koelenhof Wynkelder
4. Swartland Winery
5. Welbedacht Wines

These producers really stood out from the pack and lead the way for value wines.

The standard of the winning wines were beyond a doubt excellent, especially considering that the wines are selling below R125 per bottle. Wine consumption is steadily growing in South Africa, especially in the growing middle-class, and the fact that you can find gems at decent prices, is the good news story.



The Gold Wine Awards Tasting team including the representatives of Theron du Plessis chartered accountants and the tasting staff.

The shining stars in the tastings were:

Sauvignon blanc

The Sauvignon blanc wines were generally well balanced, and although all were very accessible, some offered great possibility for ageing. Some of the Sauvignon blanc wines also had subtle wood accompaniment which did not overwhelm the wines.

Overall the Sauvignon blanc category was very clean, fruit focussed and had wines with good weight.

Colombar

The Colombar class again surprised the judges this year, showing beautiful flavours and well balanced wines. The wines had character, and showed good acidity across several different fruit spectrums.

Red Wines

The Merlot class showed amazing quality, diversity as well as consistency. The Cape Blends surprised with their diversity, and demonstrated the skill of the winemakers with blending Pinotage. Pinotage as a category also surprised with the quality that was shown below R125 per bottle on the shelf.

Judges

The judges were Nadia Hefer, Ad Wegner, Chrisna Gerber, Karen Freitag, Marc Friederich, Pearl Olivier, Ralph Reynolds, Harry Melck, Katie Barratt, Dave March, Catherine Dillon and Wanda Cronje.

Details about the 2019 Gold Wine Awards will be announced in the last week of January 2019.

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