

# The Wine Corner

Our Editor, Martyn Best, is always seeking out new ideas for Chartered ONE, and it befell upon him to start a new, and hopefully regular feature – our new wine column, which has been very kindly supported by Wines of South Africa.



Martyn Best

A chance meeting with JO WEHRING, the UK market manager of Wines of South Africa at Fazenda, another of our chartered ONE supporters led to Jo offering to supply some fine examples of South Africa's vineyards for both Martyn and for our members to sample

This was done with no small degree of satisfaction, and we have a number of examples still left for a few of our lucky members. Martyn will provide details below of how these can be claimed.

In the meantime, Jo was able to highlight some of the recent history and re-emergence of South Africa as an increasingly credible and in fact well respected choice to satisfy our palate.

#### A new era for South African wines

It's been over two decades since South Africa became a democracy. In that time the wine industry has taken quantum leaps forward, exports have more than doubled from 2005 to 2015 and South African wine is now recognised as world class, often cited by wine experts as the most exciting wine region in the world. This growth has been driven by an exponential increase in quality, with each year delivering new wineries, more innovative young winemakers and even better wines.

South African wines are grown in one of the world's most special places –

with ancient soils, two oceans, soaring mountains and unparalleled natural beauty. The South African winelands are renowned for their breathtaking scenery and the wines are as full of variety as the myriad of cultures that form this Rainbow Nation.

Despite its African geography, the Cape winelands, situated at the Southernmost tip of Africa, enjoy a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters and warm dry summers. The mountain slopes and valleys form the ideal habitat for the wine grape, *Vitis Vinifera*, and the sea breezes from the Atlantic and Indian oceans cool the vineyards during the warm summer afternoons, slowing the ripening process and creating the rounded fruit flavours that are so popular with lovers of South African wines.

South Africa is a leader in production integrity, embracing strict guidelines for sustainable farming, and the responsibility of protecting the environment and conserving the unique biodiversity. More than 95 percent of the wine is produced in the area known as the Cape Floral Kingdom (CFK). One of six such plant kingdoms in the world, it is the smallest, yet richest, home to over 10 000 plant species. Many wine farms have developed hiking trails and nature reserves; the result is that there are now 144 000 hectares set aside for conservation – significantly more than the total area under vine (99 463 ha).

If you would like any further information on Wines of south Africa, feel free to contact Jo at Jo can be contacted at:

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#### DOES A COMPLIMENTARY BOTTLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN WINE APPEAL?

If it does – please listen to Martyn's own appeal.

He has six bottles to share, and these shall be awarded to the sender of the first six new articles for the next edition of Chartered ONE.

He has always been asking for contributions – see his Editorial – and it seems a good idea to reward those who contribute.