

## South African winners

5 Jun 2009 by Jancis Robinson / Julia Harding MW

Early last month Julia flew to South Africa to be a judge with Michel Bettane and Brian Croser of the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show. Here is the announcement of the results, a few days late owing to 'a breakdown in communication', as they say. Not as severe as that currently afflicting our government anyway.

**Nederburg** repeated its 2008 success when the Paarl cellar again won the Fairbairn Capital Trophy for the Most Successful Producer at the 2009 Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show. The competition, judged over four days in early May at the Grande Roche in Paarl, attracted a record 1,155 entries from 257 cellars. Nederburg secured the Most Successful Producer slot with trophies for its Noble Late Harvest 2007 (best Noble Late Harvest) and Private Bin Eminence Muscadel Natural Sweet 2008 (best Natural Sweet), a gold medal for the Noble Late Harvest 2008 plus seven silver medals and eleven bronze medals. **Kleine Zalze** secured second position in the Most Successful Producer rankings, followed by **Fleur du Cap** and **Vergelegen** in joint third position.

This result confirms the now widely acknowledged improvement in the standard of Nederburg's wines in the past five years. Razvan Macici as Cellarmaster, White- wine maker Tariro Masayiti and Red- wine maker Wim Truter have been focusing on fruit sources, managing batch processing and refining production techniques to optimise quality at all levels of the winemaking process. However, the narrow margin by which Nederburg secured the Fairbairn Capital Trophy from Kleine Zalze and the clear evidence of a red wine renaissance at Vergelegen suggests that rivalry for the Show's top slot has been tougher than ever before.

This year's competition yielded 25 gold medals in total - one more than in the last three years [although Julia reported that golds had to be squeezed out of the judges on occasion - JR]. The silver medal count of 70 was substantially higher than in 2007 and 2008; likewise the bronze medal tally of 331 was a significant improvement on 2008 (by 36%) and in line with the average percentage since the inaugural 2002 show.

Co- convenor of the competition (together with WINE magazine) and Chairman of the Judges, Michael Fridjhon comments: "There are clear signs that the quality improvements noted in the 2008 show have been carried forward into this year's competition. To an extent this can be measured by the higher percentage of silver and bronze medals as more and more producers cross the necessary threshold. It is also evident in the increased gold medal count in classes where massive new plantings are reaching maturity (Shiraz) and producers have been more focused in their fruit handling (Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc). But for the absence of gold medals in a couple of the red wine classes [Ah! They must have been the Cabernet/ Bordeaux ones Julia was judging - JR] , the number of trophies would also have reflected the palpable step- up we have been tracking over the past few years."

### AUDITED\* RESULTS OF 2009 OLD MUTUAL TROPHY WINE SHOW

**Fairbairn Capital Trophy for the Most Successful Producer 2009:** Nederburg Wines  
**Old Mutual Trophy for Best Red Wine Overall:** Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Shiraz 2007  
**Old Mutual Trophy for Best White Wine Overall:** Simonsig Woolworths Limited Release Chenin Blanc 2008  
**Old Mutual Trophy for Discovery of the Show (Best Value):** Ashton Unwooded Chardonnay 2008  
**Old Mutual Trophy for Best Port:** Bredell's Cape Vintage Reserve 2003

**American Express Trophy for Best Cabernet Sauvignon:** Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2007  
**British Airways Comair Limited Trophy for Best Shiraz:** Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Shiraz 2007  
**Miele Trophy for Best Wooded Chardonnay:** Tokara Stellenbosch Chardonnay 2007  
**Riedel Glass Trophy for Best Bordeaux- Style Red Blend:** Saronsberg Nick & Forti's Epicentre 2005

**Trophy for Best Unwooded Sauvignon Blanc:** Lomond Sugarbush Sauvignon Blanc 2007  
**Trophy for Best Chenin Blanc:** Simonsig Woolworths Limited Release Chenin Blanc 2008  
**Trophy for Best Unwooded Chardonnay:** Ashton Unwooded Chardonnay 2008  
**Trophy for Best Wooded Sauvignon Blanc Semillon White Blend:** Vergelegen White 2007  
**Trophy for Best Wooded White Blend:** Fleur du Cap Limited Release Unfiltered Viognier Chardonnay Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2007  
**Trophy for Best Noble Late Harvest Dessert Wine:** Nederburg Noble Late Harvest 2007  
**Trophy for Best Natural Sweet Dessert Wine:** Nederburg Private Bin Eminence Muscadel Natural Sweet 2008  
**Trophy for Best Fortified Dessert Wine (Red):** Monis Wood- matured Muscadel 2001  
**Trophy for Best Museum Class Wooded Sauvignon Blanc:** Tokara White 2005  
**Trophy for Best Museum Class Wooded Chardonnay:** Chamonix Chardonnay 1999  
**Trophy for Best Museum Class Fortified Dessert Wine:** Nuy White Muscadel 1986

### OTHER GOLD MEDAL WINNERS:

Axe Hill Cape Vintage 2006  
Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Sauvignon Blanc 2008 (unwooded)  
Haskell Pillars Shiraz 2007  
Kanu KCB Chenin Blanc 2006 (wooded)  
Kleine Zalze Vineyard Selection Shiraz 2007  
Lomond Pincushion Sauvignon Blanc 2007 (unwooded)  
Nederburg Noble Late Harvest 2008  
Raka Biography Shiraz 2007  
Vergelegen Red 2004

### SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

Baarsma Lyngrove Platinum Latitude 2007  
Beaumont Hope Marguerite 2008  
Boplaas Show Reserve Cape Tawny Port NV  
Boplaas Vintner's Reserve Cape Tawny Port NV  
Bouchard Finlayson Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2008  
Brampton Sauvignon Blanc 2008  
Buitenverwachting South East Sauvignon Blanc 2002  
Chamonix Reserve Pinot Noir 2007  
Creation Pinot Noir 2008  
D'Aria Sauvignon Blanc 2008  
De Krans Garden Route Shiraz 2007  
Diemersdal Eight Rows Sauvignon Blanc 2008  
Eagleview Pinotage 2007  
Eikendal Sauvignon Blanc 2008  
Emineo Liber II 2007  
Flagstone Dark Horse Shiraz 2007  
Flagstone Dragon Tree 2006  
Flagstone Free Run 2008  
Flagstone Two Roads 2005  
Flagstone Two Roads 2008  
Flagstone Writer's Block Pinotage 2007  
Fleur du Cap Laszlo 2006  
Fleur du Cap Unfiltered Limited Release Sauvignon Blanc 2008  
Graham Beck Shiraz 1998  
Hartenberg Sauvignon Blanc 2008  
Hartenberg Shiraz 2005  
Haskell Aeon 2007  
Hermanuspietersfontein Die Bartho 2008  
Hillcrest Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 2006  
Hillcrest Sauvignon Blanc 2005  
Kleine Zalze Vineyard Selection Cabernet Sauvignon 2007  
Koelenbosch Merlot 2007  
KVV Laborie Cap Classique 2003  
Laibach Claypot Merlot 2006  
Le Manoir de Brendel Shiraz 2005  
Lord's Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2008  
Lourensford Viognier 2008  
Meerendal Sauvignon Blanc 2008  
Mulderbosch Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2006  
Nederburg Ingenuity 2008  
Nederburg Private Bin Edelkeur Chenin Blanc Noble Late Harvest 2005  
Nederburg Private Bin R121 Shiraz 2006

Nederburg The Winemaster's Reserve Chenin Blanc 2007  
Nederburg Winemasters Reserve Chenin Blanc 2008  
Nederburg Winemasters Reserve Rhine Riesling 2008  
Nederburg Winemasters Reserve Shiraz 2007  
Neil Ellis Vineyard Selection Sauvignon Blanc 2008  
Nicolas van der Merwe Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2004  
Ormonde Ondine Semillon 2008  
Ormonde Theodore Eksteen 2007  
Rickety Bridge Chardonnay 2006  
Riebeek Cape Vintage 2005  
Rijk's Pinotage 2005  
Rijk's Sauvignon Blanc 2007  
Seidelberg Rosé 2008  
Slaley Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 2006  
Springfontein Jonathan's Ridge Pinotage 2007  
Stark- Conde Three Pines Jonkershoek Cabernet Sauvignon 2007  
Stellenzicht Rhapsody 2006  
Stellenzicht Syrah 2003  
Strandveld Adamastor 2008  
The High Road Classique 2006  
Tokara White 2007  
Tulbagh Mountain Vineyards Woolworths Syrah Mourvèdre 2005  
Val de Vie 2006  
Vergelegen 2005 (White)  
Vergelegen The Talisman 2007 (Cabernet Franc Merlot)  
Vilafonte 'C' Series 2006  
Villiera Woolworths MCC Premier Cuvee Brut 2003  
Zevenwacht 360° Sauvignon Blanc 2008