

Michelangelo International Awards salute great wines

The results of the 2012 Michelangelo International Wine Awards have been announced, with KWV The Mentors wines collecting the lion's share of 17 medals, including a Gran D'Or for the KWV Mentors Cabernet Franc 2010.

According to KWV Chief Winemaker Richard Rowe, the achievement for The Mentors range, amongst the most awarded wine brands in the country in recent years, is significant considering the age of the wines. "The first wines were launched in 2006 and have grown rapidly into something special," he says.

The awards were established to give local wines the opportunity of being judged by an international panel of wine experts. The results of the 16th event were announced on Friday 14 September in Somerset West. This year, 1 432 entries from 295 producers were assessed, including 41 from producers outside South Africa - the highest number of international entries to date. A panel from 15 countries judged the entries.

Lanzerac Estate took home gold for its Le Général 2009 and Le Bonheur's red blend, Prima was awarded the Golden Oldie trophy for the 1999 vintage and a double gold medal (Gran D'Or) among a number of wines in the Cape Legends portfolio that distinguished themselves at the awards.

Trophy winners

- ***CCL Label Grand Prix Trophy:*** Diemersdal Pinotage Reserve 2011
- ***Grand Prix Runner-Up Trophy:*** Dornier Wines - Dornier Cocoa Hill Sauvignon Blanc 2012
- ***Tonnellerie de Mercurey Trophy sponsored by RX South Africa for Best Bordeaux Blend Trophy:*** Mischa Estate - Mischa Cerno 2009
- ***Best International Entry:*** Gatt Wines - Eden Springs High Eden Riesling 2009
- ***RX South Africa Trophy Most Innovative Wine:*** De Krans - The Original Espresso NV
- ***Best Organic Trophy:*** Lazanou Organic Vineyards Syrah 2009
- ***Garagiste Trophy:*** Earthworks Wines - Storybook Cabernet Sauvignon 2008
- ***Sue van Wyk Pinotage Trophy:*** Diemersdal Pinotage Reserve 2011
- ***Grotto Trophy Top Producer:*** La Petite Ferme
- ***Golden Oldie Trophy:*** La Bonheur Prima 1999
- ***Brandy Trophy:*** Distell Ltd Oude Meester Reserve 12-Year Old
- ***AfriRack Best Dessert Wine Trophy:*** Four Paws Wines - Picatso 2011
- ***Best Fairtrade Red Wine Trophy:*** uniWines - Palesa Merlot 2011
- ***Best Fairtrade White Wine Trophy:*** Stellenrust Estate - Barrel Fermented Chenin Blanc 2011

For all the results, go to www.michelangeloawards.com/_results/results2012.php

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