

## Silver anniversary for Cape Winemakers Guild

The Cape Winemakers Guild (CWG) celebrates its 25th annual auction anniversary on 3 October 2009 at the Spier Conference Centre in Stellenbosch. Formerly known as the Cape Independent Winemakers Guild (CIWG) Auction, the first auction took place in September 1985 in Rosebank Johannesburg supported by Stephan Welz & Co.

In 1995, Nedbank became the official sponsor of the guild and its auction and in 2000 it changed its name to CWG, allowing top winemakers employed by the larger organisations to become members. Etienne le Riche, founding member, states that it was not intended for the guild to have any commercial function and that the auction was secondary to the primary objectives, which was to elevate the quality standards of South African winemaking and to gain international recognition.

Kate Jonker celebrates her 10th anniversary as the guild's GM, during which time she has seen the guild's remarkable growth both in stature and auction sales. Over the past 10 years the auction turnover increased by a remarkable 150% from R2 million to almost R5 million in 2008, thereby establishing itself as one of the country's definitive wine auctions.

Membership of the guild is by invitation only and is extended to winemakers who have been responsible for the production of outstanding wines for a minimum of five years, and who continue to do so. There are currently 36 winemakers in the guild.

CWG and Nedbank have also introduced various programs such as the Protégé Programme and the Nedbank Cape Winemakers Guild Development Trust in aid of the winemaking community.

For more details on the auction, visit [www.capewinemakersguild.com](http://www.capewinemakersguild.com), email or tel: +27 (0) 21 852 0408.