



NEWSFLASH

Standard Bank Chenin Blanc Top 10 Challenge Winners of 2020

The spread of vineyards contributing to this year's line-up of Standard Bank Chenin Blanc Top Ten Challenge winners shows just how adaptable the grape is, in the view of Chenin Blanc Association (CBA) chairman Ken Forrester. "From Stellenbosch to Worcester, Bredekloof and the cooler-climate Durbanville, these wines really do demonstrate Chenin's ability to successfully put down roots in a variety of growing conditions. .

"You know what they say: South African Chenins are a lot like South Africans themselves – vibrant, resilient and readily responsive to changing circumstances. Both the vines and the people put down deep and tenacious roots. It's how we overcome adversity and even flourish under stress."

Speaking on behalf of the judges, panel chair James Pieterse said this year's top ten were sourced mainly from mature vines, with some as old as 48 years. "From the 136 wines we assessed we found a clear link between wine quality and older, established vines. Seven of the top ten wines were harvested from vines 35 years' old at the very least, and in another instance the age of the vines ranged between 25 and 40 years.

"Across the spectrum of styles, we noticed an appealing freshness and vivaciousness. Part of the reason was the impact of nuanced, sophisticated oaking, with some producers this year introducing larger 1 500-litre and 2 500-litre barrels to their wood regimes. Also noteworthy was that for the second time only in the history of the challenge, now in its seventh year, one of the wines selected was entirely unwooded. It came from a 43-year-old vineyard. We see it as confirmation that oak is in no way an absolute as far as depth and complexity are concerned."

Worcester Wine and Olive Route is delighted and proud to announce that first time newcomer to the Chenin Blanc Challenge - Alvi's Drift has not one but two winning wines!! CONGRATULATIONS!!



Alvi's Drift Private Cellar 221 Chenin Blanc 2019

- *(Subtle to start, with pretty notes of white flowers, some layered earthiness leading to a juicy entry, with great fruit purity and sweet-fruited but satisfying end. Vibrant and sunny.) Retail Price: R90*

Alvi's Drift Private Cellar Albertus Viljoen Chenin Blanc 2019

- *(A lovely open and pure-fruited nose with bright lemon and lime blossom, following onto linear, focused and sophisticated palate. There is a sense of elegance to the subtle power here.) Retail Price: R240*

