



PRESS RELEASE

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Stellar Winery triumphs at BioFach 2007 International Organic Wine Awards

Stellar Winery, South Africa's largest organic wine producer, is leading the way when it comes to following sound environmental and ethical practices. Once again this innovative cellar, in the semi-arid Namaqualand region, has swept the board at the 8th annual BioFach International Organic Wine Awards held in Nuremberg, Germany from 15 to 18 February 2007.

Stellar Winery took home a veritable bounty of medals. Their Sensory Merlot 2004 boasted a Gold medal, while their Sensory Cabernet Sauvignon 2004 shone with a Silver medal. The following Stellar wines received recommendations (Bronze): Firefly Shiraz 2004, Firefly Chenin Blanc/ Sauvignon Blanc 2006 and Sensory Pinotage 2004. This is no mean feat considering only 10 wines received Special Gold status, 66 were awarded Gold, 151 qualified for Silver and 263 wines secured recommendations.

The number of wines entered for the 2007 BioFach International Organic Wine Awards increased by a whopping 45%, compared to last year's entries. This makes Stellar Winery's outstanding achievements even more remarkable, considering the tough competition they were up against.

A record number of 1 129 wines from 294 wine growers from 13 countries competed for the coveted BioFach International Wine Awards 2007. The judges consisted of a panel of 43 experts (including wine growers, oenologists, sommeliers and wine merchants) and stringent international judging criteria were applied in an effort to reward only the cream of the organic crop.

Across the globe more and more consumers are becoming 'switched on' to the many benefits of organic produce. Wine is no exception and South Africa is proudly on the forefront of developments.

Stellar's internationally acclaimed organic wines are sought after by wine lovers both locally and abroad. There can be no doubt as to the exceptional quality of their organic range given their recent impressive track record.

The dynamic Stellar team is justifiably proud of their latest achievement. Winemaker Dudley Wilson and his colleagues are reaping the rewards of the considerable effort they put into maintaining the rigorous international standards necessary for gaining accredited international organic status.

"The award for the Cabernet Sauvignon is particularly pleasing, as this cultivar does feel the heat and we have to work hard in the vineyards and in the cellar to unlock its full potential," explains Wilson. "Most would also consider our area too hot for Merlot. However our Merlot continues to perform well and has definitely lived up to my expectations, having shown its true colours over the five years I've been working with it here at Stellar. The recognition earned by the other wines emphasizes the inherent quality of these wines as well as the ability of the cellar to provide a variety of styles at a consistently high level of quality," he comments.

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