



CAPE VINTNER CLASSIFICATION

A symbol of quality for world class Cape wines



The Cape Vintner Classification (CVC) is an independent body committed to the accreditation, governance, representation and promotion of distinctive regional site specific Cape wines.

Cape wines have been grown and made for over 350 years.

This rich heritage and diversity of unique wine growing sites is what distinguishes wines of the Cape.

1659

On 2 February 1659 Jan van Riebeeck, produces the first wine recorded in South Africa and proclaims: "Today, praise be to god, wine was made for the first time from Cape grapes".

1761

Constantia wines are exported to Europe. Vin de Constance wins favour with Napoleon Bonaparte and the French court.

1855

The Bordeaux Wine Official Classification of 1855 resulted from the 1855 Exposition Universelle de Paris, when Emperor Napoleon III requested a classification system for France's best Bordeaux wines.

THE VISION OF THE CVC

SITE SPECIFIC WINES

To reflect a wine's distinct provenance and varietal character through an expression of site, soil, topography, climate and micro-climate. Combined with the skill and passion of the vintner, this will result in a wine of unique and identifiable origin and sense of place.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPECT

The pursuit of sustainable and respectful viticultural practices. To give credence to the protection of both cultivated and virgin land and in so doing, create a harmonious environment in which to grow and make fine wine.



DISTINCTIVENESS AND DIVERSITY

The Cape is one of the most diverse wine growing regions in the world. The CVC vision is to express this diversity through distinctive site specific Estate wines that capture the natural beauty of the environment in which they are grown.

ESTATE PRODUCTION

CVC accredited wines are grown, made and bottled by the Estates to ensure meticulous management and control of the winemaking process from vineyard to bottle. The Estates will present a cellar door experience that matches global standards and accredited wines will carry the CVC seal of quality.

1886

The Cape vineyards are devastated by Phylloxera, which results in a complete renaissance of Cape wine with new vine grafting techniques.

1918

The establishment of the "Ko-operatieve Wijnbouwers Vereniging van Zuid-Afrika" (KWV) by South African wine farmers to create industry regulation.

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

To allow for a distinctive expression of a site specific wine by meticulous vineyard management to ensure balanced yields and wines. Great wines are not produced in large volumes. This uniqueness and rarity of a CVC wine will support credible and sustainable pricing.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Cape wines have been made since 1659. The CVC endeavours to reflect over 350 years of winemaking culture through the vintners who have passed on their knowledge of the soils and vineyards from one generation to the next. In continuing this tradition, we create a sustainable and viable foundation for future generations.



COMMUNICATION

CVC members will communicate and share information both internally and externally. In order to build sustainable and credible value to the CVC, a strategy of clear, effective communication to local and international trade and press will be implemented, together with collective representation at key wine shows and presentations.

PASSION AND COMMITMENT

To attain and maintain CVC accreditation requires unwavering passion and commitment. In order to fully understand and express a specific vineyard site requires not only years but decades. It is the vision of the CVC to lay a foundation on which to create Cape wines that stand alongside the finest in the world.

1955

Dr Anton Rupert establishes the Distillers Corporation pioneering the making, marketing and distribution of Cape wines.

1972

First Estate wines made and certified by the Cape Estate Wine Producers Association.

CVC FOUNDERS

Anthony Rupert Wyne - Johann Rupert
De Wetshof Estate - Danie de Wet
Neil Ellis Wines - Neil Ellis
Kanonkop Estate - Johann Krige
Rust en Vrede Estate - Jean Engelbrecht
Vergelegen Estate - Don Tooth
Welbedacht Wine Estate - Schalk Burger

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

CVC membership is based on meeting a set of independently audited and evaluated criteria including:

- Estate ownership
- Wine quality
- Technical and environmental standards
- Cellar door facilities
- Ethical and social responsibility

For detailed accreditation information visit www.cvc1659.co.za



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Distinctively Cape

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1994

The inauguration of Nelson Mandela as the first democratically elected President of South Africa. This reopens international markets for the export of South African wine.

2013

The establishment of the Cape Vintner Classification CVC as an independent body committed to the accreditation, governance, representation and promotion of distinctive regional site specific Cape wines.