



2020

TASTING REPORT





# About

## Top Five Trust

Top Five Trust is a registered public benefit organisation, reference number 930068246.

The exclusive object of the trust is the advancement, preservation and promotion of the arts, culture and customs associated with oenology and viticulture in the Republic of South Africa in a non-profit manner, with altruistic or philanthropic intent.

The trust focuses its resources on lifting the profile of South African Pinot Noir for the benefit of all stakeholders.

To achieve its objective, the trust organises the annual Mosaic Top 5 Pinot Noir Wine Awards. These awards identify five South African Pinot Noir red wines to serve as a benchmark for the development of distinctive South African Pinot Noir red wines and to illustrate the quality of South African Pinot Noir red wines to the world.

[www.top5.co.za](http://www.top5.co.za) | [info@top5.co.za](mailto:info@top5.co.za)

## Mosaic Family Office

Mosaic Family Office is proud to recognise and support the climate, people, soil and the multitude of other factors that go into making the best Pinot Noir red wines in South Africa.

Mosaic Family Office is the leading South African multi-family office specialist and specialises in the establishment and maintenance of local and offshore financial inheritance structures that allow families to manage, protect and grow their wealth for current and future generations. Core competencies include administration, fiduciary, foreign exchange, investment management, philanthropy, structuring and taxation services.

Mosaic Family Office is a registered financial services provider #46319.

[www.mosaic.co.za](http://www.mosaic.co.za) | [family.office@mosaic.co.za](mailto:family.office@mosaic.co.za)



With 109 entries from 64 different producers, the Mosaic Top 5 Pinot Noir Wine Awards is the most influential wine competition in support of South African Pinot Noir.

# Trustee report

## Introduction

This year shall be remembered as the year of the unexpected pandemic. Happily, the enjoyment of wine transcends much of the more difficult aspects of life, which we celebrate with this year's Mosaic Top 5 Pinot Noir Wine Awards.

The quality of the wines on display at this year's competition signals the continued upward trajectory of the rank of South African Pinot Noir red wines.

Congratulations to this year's winning wines and thank you to all persons who contributed to make this year's awards a success.

## Judging process

The judging process adheres to strict blind tasting standards as the wines are tasted over a preliminary and a final judging round.

The judging panel consists of five members made up of Cape Wine Masters, experienced sommeliers, Masters of Wine and qualified winemakers only. One panel member is appointed as chairperson.

The judging panel for this year's competition was:

### Chairperson

Dr Winifred Bowman, CWM	Cape Wine Master and renowned international wine judge
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### Panel members

Gregory Mutambe	Head sommelier at the Twelve Apostles Hotel
Anton Swarts, CWM	Cape Wine Master and senior winemaker at Spier Wines
Rüdger van Wyk	Cellarmaster at Stark-Condé Wines
Karin Visser, CWM	Cape Wine Master and account manager at Great Domaines

Sincerely,

**Board of Trustees of Top Five Trust**

# Chairperson report

The Mosaic Top 5 Pinot Noir Wine Awards, a new South African wine competition focusing exclusively on Pinot Noir red wines, is proud to announce the winners of its inaugural 2020 awards.

There are very few wine lovers who do not succumb to the lure and charm of Pinot Noir, to be forever under its spell. Once hooked, there is no turning back! With its origin firmly in France, the “heartbreak grape” has slowly but surely made its mark on other parts of the world as well: the wines from Oregon, USA; Mornington Peninsula, Australia, Central Otago in New Zealand and in South Africa.

All the wines were judged strictly blind (pre-poured and then presented to the judges) over two rounds and two consecutive days. The final score for each wine was recorded after a panel discussion. In the first round the vintages were known, and in the second-round wines were presented in random order with no vintages offered.

The competition was held on 16 and 17 September in Cape Town and saw a staggering 109 entries from 64 producers with wines from the 2009 to 2020 vintages inclusively. The number of entrants exceeded our expectations in this unusual year. The most entries were from the Walker Bay area (37) followed by Elgin (30), Stellenbosch (12), Franschhoek (9) and the balance from the South Coast, Breede Kloof Valley, Ceres, Tulbagh, South Coast and KwaZulu Natal. 2018 had the biggest vintage representation, namely 38, followed by 2017 (24), 2019 (22) and the remainder spread among the other vintages.

Although Pinot Noir accounts for only 1.3% of the national vineyard area (making it the 7th most planted red variety), the panel experienced a dramatic increase in the quality of the wines. The judges were unanimous in their view that improvements have taken place in vineyard management, gentler handling of the fruit in the cellar and improved application of oak to enhance the inherent perfume, fruit flavours and delicacy expected from quality Pinot Noir.

The panel was most impressed by the 2017 and 2019 vintages, noticing the knock-on effect of the drought in some 2018 examples. Walker Bay triumphed with three of the top five wines, with Elgin taking up the remaining two spots.

Congratulations to all the winners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Bowman', followed by a small dot.

**Dr. Winifred Bowman, CWM**

Chairperson of the judging panel

# Mosaic Top 5 Winners

The 2020 top five South African Pinot Noir wines are:



## **Creation Wines**

Art of Pinot Noir  
2018



## **Elgin Vintners**

Pinot Noir  
2019



## **La Vierge Wines**

Apogee Pinot Noir  
2016



## **Richard Kershaw Wines**

Elgin Clonal Selection Pinot Noir  
2017



## **The Brew Cru**

Pinot Noir  
2019



# 90+ Medals

Wines that score 90 or more points, but do not make it into the top five, are celebrated with a 90+ award medal.



The 2020 90+ South African Pinot Noir red wines are:

**Botanica Wines** Mary Delany Collection Pinot Noir 2018

**Creation Wines** Pinot Noir 2019

**Domaine Des Dieux** Josephine Pinot Noir 2015

**Flagstone Wines** Fiona Pinot Noir 2016

**Kat Se Snor Wines** Pinot Noir 2017

**Leopards Leap Family Vineyards** Culinaria Pinot Noir 2017

**Oak Valley Estate** Groenlandberg Pinot Noir 2019

**Richard Kershaw Wines** Smugglers Boot Pinot Noir 2016

**Whalehaven Winery** Conservation Coast Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Pinot Noir 2016





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