

newsletter

Much more than a wine route!

BREEDEKLOOF WINE & TOURISM - MARCH 2008



The Breedekloof is exceptionally beautiful this time of year so let me extend a warm invitation to you all to come and enjoy our region's many attractions.

Upcoming events worth experiencing include Art of Winemaking hosted by the multi-award winning Bergsig Estate. While Jamie Oliver types will get to express their potjiekos skills at Du Toitskloof Wine Cellar. See more details below as well as a list of terrific places to spend a few days.

Of course the big news is the ongoing 2008 harvest and Breedekloof winemakers can't wait to get their hands on grapes which have benefited from near idyllic cooler conditions, resulting in slower ripening vines.

HARVEST 2008

Excitement is spreading across the vineyards as slower ripening conditions have produced an exceptional quality 2008 vintage in the Breedekloof. Some Chardonnay blocks are being harvesting up to 14 days later than normal, and the reds are expected to challenge the quality of the wonderful 2005 vintage.



Heavy rains did disrupt the harvest and winemakers are expecting reduced volumes of certain varietals including Chenin Blanc. But the drop in quantity will not affect the quality of the wines.

Heavy rains did disrupt the harvest and winemakers are expecting reduced volumes of certain varietals including Chenin Blanc. But the drop in quantity will not affect the quality of the wines.

De Wet Lategan, the Breedekloof's reigning winemaker of the year, said among the red varietals, Cabernet Sauvignon in particular was looking good and he was optimistic that the late ripening red cultivars would be on a par with the celebrated 2005 harvest.

FOCUS ON THE "GOUDINI TRIANGLE"

If you are planning a visit, why not explore the "Goudini Triangle". This part of the Breedekloof, like the Bermuda Triangle, is a magical spot where visitors are likely to lose themselves. The Goudini Triangle is characterised by a relaxed atmosphere and the wineries and places to stay all reflect this tranquility.

If you are after a laid back garagiste style experience then knock on the Le Roux family's door at **Kirabo**, and follow that up with a visit to the nearby boutique style **Avondrood Private Cellar** which offers top medal winning Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier.

If you searching for unusual wines then stop in at **Daschbosch Cellar** which produces a red Nectar de Provision, a special wine made of Merlot juice fortified with brandy. This is something for the romantic and can be served on crushed ice on a hot summer day or with dark chocolate.

Another rarity can be enjoyed at **Merwida Cellar**, which is home to the Van der Merwe family which settled in the Breedekloof more than 160 years. The Family Reserve Barbera is an unusual varietal not commonly bottled in South Africa.

At **Goudini Wine Cellar**, a favourite is the Goudini Pinotage which earned a Gold medal at the prestigious Concourse Mondial de Bruxelles Awards.

There is a variety of guest house, B&B and self-catering accommodation available in this part of the Breedekloof including the **Dwarsberg Trout Haven** which as the name implies is a popular spot with fly fishermen.

The **Avondrood Mountain Cottage** is a tranquil getaway made from natural stone. The sunset views are incredible and you can cool off in a splash pool. Another laidback option is the **Watergat** camp site which is set beside a dam surrounded by vineyards.

Eensgevonden has three self-contained Cape farm cottages. The farm has secluded mountain pools and is a great spot for hiking and bird watching.

Le Domaine is a self-catering farmhouse with three double rooms and there is a Jacuzzi spa bath to complete your relaxing experience. Another lovely farm experience is to be enjoyed at the **Olivino Farm Cottage**.

Visitors looking for something more sophisticated will feel at home at the **Merwida Country Lodge** which is in an American Colonial grand house with large rooms with high pressed ceilings. The mansion is a romantic getaway set among vineyards.



Kirabo


Daschbosch Cellar


Hennie Hugo of Goudini Wine Cellar


Avondrood Mountain Cottage


Eensgevonden


Merwida Country Lodge

TOP AWARD FOR DEETLEFS

Congratulations to the Deetlefs Wine Laboratory, which together with Distell Bergkelder, has been rated the Top Laboratory of the Year for 2007 by the South African Wine Laboratory Association. The laboratory is responsible for the Deetlefs Group's Quality Management Program and a variety of services are performed for producers, agents and buyers.

POTJIEKOS COMPETITION: DU TOITSKLOOF WINERY



Jamie Oliver types can express their cooking skills at a potjie competition at Du Toitskloof Winery on Saturday April 19. There are terrific prizes to be won and entry is R500 for a corporate team of four and R100 for a non-corporate team of four. A DJ will provide music, there will be a big screen for sports lovers and a jumping castle for kids. Contact (023) 349 1601.

THE ART OF WINEMAKING: BERGSIG ESTATE

Experience the Art of Winemaking at Bergsig Estate during the school holidays from March 24 to April 11. There will be cellar tours on weekdays at 11am and at 3pm. The cost is R25 a person. Contact (023) 355 103 to book.

PRAISE UNDER THE OAKS: BOSHIMELA

The Dam Fine Café@Boshimela will host "Praise and Worship beneath the Oaks" from 3.30pm on Sunday March 16. There will be performances from the likes of G4J and entrance is free. Contact Alta on (023) 344 3220.

COWBOY DANCE: MOUNTAIN RIDGE WINES

Mountain Ridge Wines will host a cowboy dance at 7pm on April 18. The cost is R50 a person. Contact (023) 231 1070.

OTHER UPCOMING BREEDEKLOOF EVENTS

- Challenger World from May 15 to 18
- Soetes and Soup from July 25 to 26
- Breedekloof Outdoor & Wine festival from October 10 to 12

For more information on accommodation and activities, visit www.breedekloof.com or call us on (023) 3491791.

I look forward to welcoming you in the Breedekloof.



Melody Botha
Breedekloof Wine and Tourism

Media queries to be directed to Doug Carew at Splash PR on doug@splashpr.co.za