

WHITEWATER VALLEY WINE SOCIETY
October 2022 Tasting
Boutique Vineyards of South Africa
Presented by Preet Sahota of Edgmond Wines

Edgmond Wines has been operating for over 7 years now and in that time they have been privileged to work with a number of boutique winemakers who they now consider close friends. Their owner, Preet Sahota, is young and very enthusiastic and usually visits South Africa every year to discover what's new. He has enormous passion for the wines of South Africa and he believes their winemakers produce some of the most exciting wines on the planet. For this tasting Preet presented a selection of fine wines from boutique winemakers. These are typically wines which are produced on a small scale, limited-production, hand-crafted and artisanal. Most of these wines were new to our members and it was exciting to see what the upcoming winemakers of South Africa are producing. [Prices quoted below include a generous discount!]

Our evening began with two white wines. Our first was a **Jan Harmsgat Sauvignon Blanc 2021 Robertson** [12%, £7.99] crafted by superstar Francois Haasbroek. This was a pale gold coloured wine that was crisp, elegant and fresh. There were light notes of green fig and gooseberries on the palate with a fruit driven nose and gentle lingering aroma. Those who find white sauvignons too acidic should make a note of this wine as it was delightful!

Our second white had to be a Chenin and it was, a **Roodekrantz 1983 Chenin Blanc 2020 Swartzland** [14%, £9.99]. Vinified from single vineyard old bush vines 35 years old, this pale gold coloured wine was opulent, rich and smooth. On the nose was a great concentration of peach, pear and citrus aromas with earthy notes. Medium bodied and pure on the palate it was a wine to savour, slowly!

The selection of red wines began with a pale coloured rosé, a **Roodekrantz 1954 Cinsaut Rosé 2021 Paarl** [13%, £9.99], a one-off wine from one of the oldest Cinsaut vineyards in South Africa. Matured in old French oak barrels perfumed wine had aromas of strawberries, hints of rose petal and a touch of sour cherry. It was medium bodied, delicate with ripe tannins on the palate. Pleasant but not as well accepted as the white wines!

Next came a Francois Haasbroek **Jan Harmsgat Pinot Noir 2020 Robertson** [13%, £8.99] This wine was a typical Pinot Noir in colour being semi transparent in the glass with a very light feel in the mouth, but full of fruit flavours - cherries, and strawberries. Tannins were soft and smooth and the finish soft and silky.

Most members were baffled by the name of the next wine - a **Coup d'état Red Blend 2016 Swartzland** [12%,£7.99]. This was a 'natural' wine from a blend of 57/27/15/1% Mourvèdre/Cinsault/Syrah/Grenache hand-harvested from old bush vines, each variety matured separately in 300 litre french oak barrels for 12 months. A wine without modern wine-making additives and unfiltered [hence natural], this was a lower alcohol wine that was luminous and bright - pleasant and different!

It was followed by a **Klawer Cabernet Sauvignon 2020 Western Cape** [13.5%, £9.99] with a big proportion of grapes coming from the legendary Skurfberg farm, as grown by the renowned farmer Basie Van Lill. Dark cherry red in colour with a flinty nose, ripe berry flavours combined well with a well-balanced spicy palate. Smooth oak aromas added some complexity to a very friendly priced wine!

Another puzzling name followed, a **Druk My Niet T3 Paarl 2013** [14%, £14.95] apparently, a world first being a blend of 42/33/25% Tempranillo/Tannat/Tinta Amarillo made by the legendary winemaker Lukas Van Loggerenberg. After rigorous hand sorting of berries, a combination of open and closed fermentation of 12 months in French oak barrels, minimum intervention and unrefined,

this wine had a black cherry colour that was dense and opaque. In the mouth it was soft with a hint of liquorice with a hefty body, absolutely lovely!

Our evening ended with a **Jakob's Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Western Cape** [14%, £15.99] crafted by Peter-Allan Finlayson of Crystallum fame from grapes from Hemel-en-Aarde. It had a very dense red colour with hints of sweet spice, liquorice and blackcurrant on the nose and silky black cherries on the palate. A wine still developing, needing more time.

Members present enjoyed a most interesting selection of South African Wines. Preet's enthusiasm and conviction for his chosen career is clearly evident and almost contagious. Our most grateful thanks for his long journey from Shropshire to Hook this evening.