Whitewater Valley Wine Society
November 2027 Tasting
Wines of South Africa – A New Dimension
Presented by Preet Sahota, Edgmond Wines

Preet Sahota is one of our Society's most popular speakers and needs no introduction to those who have been members for more than a couple of years. He has a reputation for bringing us lesser-known wines from the New World. We like the wines he shows us and they are well priced for members. This month Preet presented wines under the theme "South Africa – A New Dimension". Most wines tasted were from Swartland, Western Cape and their normal retail price is quoted below.

His pick included wines from lesser-known boutique-style wineries and included three from 'One Movement' which is the brand for small batch, minimal intervention projects that highlight unique and lesser-known grape varieties. These wines are crafted in South Africa by winemaker Henry Costa and brought to the UK exclusively through Edgmond Wines.

Our evening started with a **Schenkfontein Truida MCC 2023** [£22.99, 11.5%], a 100% Chenin Blanc made according to champagne method by an ex-Bollinger employee using old 56 year old vines. This had a pale golden colour with aromas and flavours of golden apples, pears with citrus notes. There was a fine beaded mousse, crisp acidity and a touch of biscuit accompanied by a lingering saline minerality - a most promising start!

Our first white wine was a **One Movement Vermentino 2026** [£21.99, 12%]. This pale golden coloured wine was one of the brand's newest experimental releases from the cooler side of Swartland. It had aromas and flavours of stone fruit and citrus with crisp acidity and a saline mineral edge. Compared with the usual Italian wine of the same grape it seemed to have more body and flavour, possibly benefiting from 3 months in French oak?

Next came a **Rebeland Cape White Blend 2021** [£17.99,13.5%] a mature blend of 40/30/30% of Chenin Blanc/Verdelho/Roussane from Journey's End Vineyard. This pale gold wine had fresh and vibrant aromas of melon, nectarine, citrus and lemon blossom. On the full and rounded palate there was a lively acidity with notes of nutty almonds with a mineral finish. It was well appreciated.

The final white wine was from a Stellenbosch single vineyard, a **One Movement Albarino 2026** [£23.99, 14%]. Another pale gold-coloured wine that had been picked late and fermented for 4 months on French oak was different from its Spanish 'parent'. This had zesty citrus and green apple aromas that continued onto the palate which was full, rounded and off-dry - hmm!

The reds started with a **One Movement Tempranillo 2026** [£21.99, 12.5%], the vines only occupying 1% of vineyards in South Africa. The depth of colour was similar to its Spanish 'parent' but its youth rendered it lighter on aromas, flavours and body. It needs time!

The next two wines were well received. The first was a **Villa Esposito Pinotage 2023** [£26.99, 14.5%] that had a dark cherry red colour with aromas and flavours of red fruits and Christmas Cake with sweet, smoky undertones on the palate. - a most satisfying mouth feel!

Next we tasted a **Blake Amethyst 2021** [£27.99, 15%], a flagship South African blend of Pinotage/Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon. It had a dark red cherry colour with purplish hints. Grapes were barrel-matured in American and French oak for 12 months before blending and subsequently left for

4 years in bottle before release. Aromas of dark fruit were predominant with hints of liquorice and black pepper. The mouth-feel was rounded and pleasant, with medium tannins and a long lingering finish.

Our last wine was port style - a **Winkelshoek Cape Vintage 2022** £23.99, 15.55] that had a dark cherry colour that lacked the density of the previous wine. It was also lighter in the mouth than the usual port and was not assisted by sediment in the glass - not in the same league as most other wines tasted earlier.

The Society once again extends its grateful thanks to Preet for another interesting and entertaining evening of tasting wines from established, and new version of wines from lesser-known producers.