

JUDGING COMPLETED FOR DINERS CLUB WINEMAKER AND YOUNG WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR

While the judges of the 2010 Diners Club Winemaker of the Year and Young Winemaker of the Year have evaluated this year's entries and selected the winners, entrants, and anxious wine lovers, will have to wait until 27 November to hear their names announced.

This year marks a milestone for the two competitions as it is the 30th year in which a Winemaker of the Year is chosen and the 10th in which a young winemaker of the year is announced. This year's winners will join the ranks of icons of the industry such as Günther Brozel, Sydney Back and Danie de Wet.

The judging panel was chaired by Dave Hughes and includes international wine consultant and Cape Wine Master Lynne Sheriff, wine judge and commentator Neil Pendock, Carrie Adams from specialist liquor retailer Norman Goodfellows, Nomonde Kubheka, KWV winemaker; Margaret Fry, Cape Wine Master; and technical wine consultant Margaret Fundira. Glenroy du Plessis, who was recently voted best wine steward at the 2010 Diners Club Winelist Awards, was this year's apprentice judge.

Sheriff, the first South African to be appointed chairperson of the international Institute of Masters of Wine, was this year's international judge, bringing over 25 years international experience to the panel. She has been involved in all aspects of the trade, from production, blending and procurement to international marketing and developing commercial agreements.

Apart from the prestige associated with winning the competition, the Diners Club Winemaker of the Year receives a South African Airways economy class return ticket to any wine-producing country in the world plus R30 000 toward expenses. The 2010 Diners Club Young Winemaker of the Year (who has to be 30 or younger at the time of entering) will walk away with R15 000 prize money and a head start in the wine industry.

To compete for the title of Winemaker of the Year, participants had to submit Sauvignon Blancs for judging, while young winemakers were judged on their unfortified dry red wines, whether blends or cultivar wines.

The winners will be announced at a gala dinner on 27 November.

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