



MEDIA RELEASE: THE 2020 OLD MUTUAL TROPHY WINE SHOW

EMBARGOED until 16h00 on 30 SEPTEMBER

SPECTACULAR WINES MITIGATE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS INDUCED BY THE PANDEMIC

OMTWS 2020 - 1

The results of the 2020 Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show were announced by way of a unique online presentation, timed to coincide with their publication (on the website and on the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show App). The virtual awards function detailed the key results from the 19th edition of the Cape wine industry's toughest – and most highly regarded – competition. Of the 747 wines judged from 161 producers, 39 gold medals were awarded. All Best-in-Class gold medallists emerged as trophy winners. In the end, 21 trophies, including the coveted Most Successful Producer of the Show, were unveiled in the presentation.

2020 – The Year of the Pandemic – was always going to pose a challenge to competitions such as the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show. The lockdown meant that the dates of the judging had to be rolled over several times; judges were prohibited from crossing provincial boundaries; wineries were unable to deliver samples on account of the regulations governing the transport of wine during the protracted ban on alcohol distribution. The international judges – whose presence has always been a feature of the show judging – were unable to make the trip. (All have agreed in principle to judge in 2021).

Since the competition's inception in 2002, the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show has provided a showcase of the ever-changing landscape of Cape wine. In the almost two decades of its existence, the competition has welcomed on its winner's podium almost all of the country's leading producers, from boutique-size cellars to major wholesalers. In this it is unique: whereas many reviewers focus on one or perhaps a few of the various broad categories of producers, the OMTWS welcomes all producers whose wines are generally commercially available. Some of the show's laureates were almost unknown outside a small circle of insiders when they first received the award but have since acquired reputations which extend well beyond the domestic market. This is as it should be: the purpose of a blind tasting competition is to make discoveries, to discern value and to light a path for consumers and for the trade, to separate actual quality from the sales message of market-savvy producers.

The 2020 results maintain the show's tradition and have reinforced its talent-scouting reputation. While comfortably more than half of the trophy winners had previously taken home an award for a best-in-class wine, several stepped into the limelight for the first time. The top producer for 2020 – Kleine Zalze – has been a multiple trophy winner, with awards across a number of categories – but this was the first time the cellar took home the coveted Old Mutual Trophy for the show's most successful producer. It won the accolade as a result of trophies in the cap classique and chenin categories, as well as two silver medals and seven bronzes.

The trophy for the show's best shiraz – and best red wine overall – went to newcomer Trizanne Signature Wines for her Reserve Syrah 2018. The winner of the show's best white wine was past laureate Mulderbosch - this time for the 2019 wooded sauvignon blanc.

The Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show's judging panels have proved extraordinarily consistent in honing in on the producers whose focus makes them natural laureates in particular categories. Many of the trophy winners have previously been on the competition's podium - often in the same awards categories. Rustenberg's multiple success with its Five Soldiers Chardonnay warrants a particular mention: at the 2013 competition the 2011 vintage took home the Miele trophy for best chardonnay. This year the self-same wine won the museum class trophy while the 2018 vintage won the Miele trophy for best current-release chardonnay. Stellenbosch Vineyards has previously taken the niche white variety trophy for its verdelho, Buitenverwachting the dessert wine trophy for its "1769" dessert wine; Warwick won the cabernet franc trophy in 2018 while Kleine Zalze took home the Harold Eedes Trophy for the Show's best chenin blanc in 2017. De Krans regularly wins the port (Cape vintage) trophy, just as the KWV dominates – as it did again this year – in the museum class port category, and Nuy the muscadell class.

Of the 39 trophies and gold medals presented across the show's various classes only 9 were awarded to producers who had never before received one of these accolades. These were trophy winners Durbanville Hills (for the best Sauvignon-Semillon blend) The Tangram 2018, Trizanne Signature Wines for the Reserve Syrah 2018 and gold medallists Cilmor, David Finlayson/Edgebaston, Mt Vernon, Le Grande Domaine/The Pledge, Hogan, Domaine des Dieux and Allee Bleue.

Overall the show highlighted the much improved vineyard conditions since the end of the devastating drought – and this partly explains the higher medal count relative to total entries across all categories. "The 2017 reds that were on the tasting benches reflected the extraordinary quality of that vintage," said Show Chairman Michael Fridjhon. "The younger whites – notably from 2019 and a sprinkling of 2020s – speak luminously of the fabulous prospects still in store as our wine enthusiasts discover how well the vines have recovered. Many of the silver medalists were only deprived of their place amongst the golds because of the strength of the line-up this year. Now is the time to recognise that silver medallists at the OMTWS are comfortably gold medal wines in any other competition anywhere in the world," said Fridjhon.

Thobile Tshabalala, Head of Brand at Old Mutual Limited, says: "Time may change but the things that are important seldom do. Encouraging, inspiring and enabling people to become their exceptional best makes us proud to have once again, been a part of the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show. This highly acclaimed annual event is a highlight on the South African wine industry calendar and we are delighted at the number of entrants this year that still managed to produce exceptional quality wines even during the country's Covid-19 and economic challenging times. To achieve great things one must plan, nurture, learn and prepare. We congratulate this year's winners and are grateful to Michael Fridjhon and his team for their role in providing such an invaluable platform of excellence and for raising the profile of our fine wines."

Partners American Express, Grande Roche Hotel, Miele and Riedel each have naming rights to a trophy. Other named awards include the chenin blanc trophy – named after the late Harold Eedes, who, as publisher of Wine Magazine in the 1990s, played a key role in South Africa's chenin blanc renaissance. In 2012 the Trophy for Best Cape Port was named after the late Tony Mossop CWM.

Cross border travel restrictions forced the exclusion of the international judges whose presence has been a hallmark of the show since its inception. However, thanks to the work done by the Wine Judging Academy run under the auspices of Old Mutual and the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business a broad

range of judging talent was assembled from within the country's borders. The judging panel was chaired by wine authority Michael Fridjhon. The first International co-chairman of the International Wine Challenge, and immediate past-chairman of the Six Nation's Challenge, he has directed the show since the competition was launched in 2002.

This year's panellists comprised a hugely experienced group whose members included Christian Eedes, editor of winemag.co.za, panel chair of innumerable category judgings and visiting panellist for competitions in Europe and Australia, Patson Mathonsi, sommelier and wine judge, now regional sales manager at Spier Wine Estate, Cathy van Zyl MW, an international judge and lecturer, primarily in Asia, and Narina Cloete, long-serving Trophy Wine Show judge, as well as panellist at the Zarcillo International Wine Competition in Spain. Other senior panellists included François Rautenbach, who directs the Singita fine wine programme and has been a judge at the OMTWS for several years, JD Pretorius, formerly chief winemaker at Steenberg and now cellar master at Warwick, and Alexandra McFarlane, winemaker, viticulturist and Trophy Wine Show judge in 2018 and 2019. Champagne and Cap Classique specialist Heidi Duminy CWM, recently appointed principal of the Cape Wine Academy, Spencer Fondaumiere, ASI Sommelier and founder of Wineyard East Africa and Trizanne Barnard, owner-winemaker of Trizanne Signature Wines made up the cohort. In the interests of keeping numbers to a minimum (per Covid-19 rules), there were no associate judges invited to attend the show to hone their judging skills.

All the Trophy Winners

Old Mutual Trophy for Most Successful Producer Overall

Kleine Zalze

Trophy for Best Shiraz and Old Mutual Trophy for Best Red Wine Overall

Trizanne Signature Wines Reserve Syrah 2018

Trophy for Best Sauvignon Blanc and Old Mutual Trophy for Best White Wine Overall

Mulderbosch Sauvignon Blanc 2019

Old Mutual Trophy for Discovery of the Show / Best Value Gold Medallist

Mulderbosch Chenin Blanc Steen op Hout 2019

Old Mutual Trophy for Best Sparkling Wine

Kleine Zalze Vintage Brut Méthode Cap Classique 2013

Harold Eedes Trophy for Best Chenin Blanc

Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Chenin Blanc 2018

American Express Trophy for Best Cabernet Sauvignon

Cederberg Five Generations Cabernet Sauvignon 2017

Riedel Trophy for Best Bordeaux-Style Red Blend

Morgenster Lourens River Valley 2014

Miele Trophy for Best Chardonnay

Rustenberg Five Soldiers Chardonnay 2018

Trophy for Best Museum Class Chardonnay

Rustenberg Five Soldiers Chardonnay 2011

Trophy for Best Cabernet Franc

Warwick Estate Cabernet Franc 2017

Trophy for Best Pinotage

Ormonde Basson Pinotage 2018

Grande Roche Trophy for Best White Blend

Durbanville Hills The Tangram 2018

Trophy for Best Museum Class White Blend

Cape of Good Hope Riebeeksrivier Caroline 2016 (Anthonij Rupert)

Trophy for Best Rhône-Style Red Blend

Underworld Red 2019 (Strange Kompanjie / Wildeberg)

Trophy for Best Niche Wine

Stellenbosch Vineyards Limited Release Verdelho 2019

Old Mutual Trophy for Best Unfortified Dessert Wine – Noble Late Harvest

Buitenverwachting '1769' 2017

Tony Mossop Trophy for Best Cape Port

De Krans Cape Vintage Reserve 2017

Trophy for Best Museum Class Fortified Wine

KWV Limited Release Port 1948

Gold Medal Winners

Allée Bleue Shiraz 2018

Bouchard Finlayson Kaaimasgat Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2018

Buitenverwachting Sauvignon Blanc 2017

Cape Point Vineyards Isliedh 2018

Cilmor Limited Edition Wooded Chenin Blanc Viognier 2019

David Finlayson Camino Africana Cabernet Franc 2017 (Edgebaston)

Delaire Graff Botmaskop 2017

Des Dieux Chardonnay 2016 (Domaine Des Dieux)

Diemersdal Shiraz 2018

Hogan Chenin Blanc 2017

KWV Cathedral Cellar Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Mt Vernon Galileo 2015 (Boutique Class Red Blend)

Mulderbosch Chenin Blanc Steen op Hout 2019

Neethlingshof Short Story Collection Maria Noble Late Harvest 2019

Nicky Versveld Sauvignon Blanc 2019

Nuy Celine Chardonnay Pinot Noir Cap Classique Brut NV (Boutique Class)

Nuy Rooi Muscadell 2010 (Museum Class)

Nuy Rooi Muscadell 2014

Springfontein Daredevils' Drums Skins Agleam Sauvignon Blanc 2018 (Boutique Class)

Stark-Condé Round Mountain Sauvignon Blanc 2019

The Pledge Sauvignon Blanc 2020 (Le Grand Domaine)

Tokara Director's Reserve White 2017

Ends

Issued by OutSorceress Marketing on behalf of The Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show

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