

WINE

Ever since the 1976 'Judgment of Paris', where a motley crew of Californian cabernet sauvignon and chardonnay sensationally outperformed their Bordeaux and Burgundy counterparts, the French old-style cogniscenti have been a little wary of blind-tasting competitions. What makes the New World wines so much more potent in blind tastings is that a lesser degree of prejudice, intimidation or bullshit can creep in. The fact that New World wines tend to stand out because they are more alcoholic, extracted, sweeter, woodier, riper and mature (or flop) sooner, bodes well for them on this battleground.

Flying happily in the face of popular opinion, the Classic Wine Trophy unearthed some superb South African wines in a blind tasting conducted



Judges in the Classic Wine trophy consider their verdicts

CLASS IN A GLASS

Cape Chamonix triumphs in search for best classic wines in South Africa

by prominent French wine personalities. Guest judges included Makro wine buyer Sydney Buthelezi and sommelier at the five-star Cellars-Hohenhort hotel Miguel Chan. Essentially, the judges were looking for wines with elegance, balance, and a capacity to improve over time. The Santam-sponsored competition, hosted by Christophe Durand, was an easy-going, unfussy affair with



Overall winner Gottfried Mocke of Cape Chamonix, right

low levels of techno-scientific bluster.

Blind tastings were conducted over three days at the Mandela Rhodes Place, followed by a spirited lunch and awards ceremony at the Vineyard Hotel.



GQ's Jonathan Steyn and host Christophe Durand



The Classic Wine Trophy awarded four trophies, 17 gold medals and a GQ Consumer Choice selection. The overall winner was Cape Chamonix wines

OVERALL WINNER:

- Cape Chamonix wines

RED WINE TROPHY:

- Groot Constantia Gouverneur's Reserve Shiraz 2006

WHITE WINE TROPHY:

- Jean Daneel Signature Chenin Blanc 2006

SWEET WINE:

- Klein Constantia Vin de Constance 2004

SPARKLING WINE:

- Simonsig Cuvee Royale 2003

GOLD: RED WINES

- Groot Constantia Pinotage 2007

- De Wetshof Nature in Concert Pinot Noir 2006
- La Motte Pierneef shiraz/viognier 2007
- Cape Chamonix Pinot Noir Reserve 2007
- Warwick Trilogy 2005
- Klein Constantia Marlbrook 2006

- Cederberg Shiraz 2006
- Morgenster Lourens River Valley 2004
- Saronsberg Seismic 2005
- GOLD: WHITE WINES**
- Southern Right Sauvignon Blanc 2008
- Cape Chamonix Chardonnay Reserve 2007
- Ataraxia Chardonnay 2008
- Hamilton Russell Vineyards Chardonnay 2008
- GQ CHOICE AWARDS:**
- Jean Daneel Signature Chenin Blanc 2006
- Groot Constantia Pinotage 2007
- Cape Chamonix Pinot Noir Reserve 2007

