

# Spring kicks off wine auction season



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JOHANNESBURG - September heralds the arrival of spring in the Southern hemisphere. It's a time to be joyous when the scenery in the vineyards are full of life, revived with tender green shoots and high hopes of a gentle summer season ahead full of promise for the vines and the next grape harvest,

Incidentally, it is also the month of the year where two of South Africa's major wine auctions -- the Nederburg Auction and the Nedbank Cape Winemakers Guild (CWG) -- will be held.

Both auctions are prominent by world standards. They have both been running for over three decades, highlighting the greatness of the South African wine industry, rarest and most sought after world-class wines.

Most of the wines are snapped up by private buyers while a fair chunk of the lot goes to hotel and restaurant buyers.

Auction wines are sought after on wine lists by both wine connoisseurs and those seeking a great dining experience.

They are exceptionally rare and due to their limited availability, sometimes only six bottles are available for the whole country.

The first Nederburg Auction was held in 1975 and is today recognised as one of the world's five major wine auctions, alongside the auctions of Hospices de Beaune in France and Kloster Eberbach in Germany.

There are 107 wines on auction this year, with the oldest being a 1948 Monis Collector's Port alongside some legendary Nederburg Edelkeur 1996 Noble Late Harvest and Chateau Libertas 1996. Over the years it is not unusual to see record prices of over R10,000 per bottle for these wines, testament of the sought after status of our finest wines.

My advice is that any wine lover should at least purchase a bottle of auction wines when dining out. It's another level of wine appreciation.

Seven outstanding wines to seek out at Nederburg Auction 2018 are:

**Boplaas Family Vineyards Calitzdorp Cape Vintage Reserve Port 2004 MC 95 Points**

60 bottles on offer. A classic Port style fortified wine, pure, bursting with Christmas fruit cake no spicy earthy and elegant, leathery richness. World class. Now until 2068

Reserve Price Per Case – R3,000

### **De Wetshof Estate Bateleur Robertson Chardonnay Magnum 2015 MC 93 Points**

18 Magnum's (1.5L bottle) on offer. Confident style with just the right amount of spicy oak, citric freshness, structured, elegant and precise, magnum's are ideal for two couples. Now until 2031

Reserve Price Per Case – R1,650

### **Kanonkop Wine Estate Simonsberg-Stellenbosch Pinotage Magnum 2001 MC 93 Points**

60 Magnum's (1.5L bottle) on offer. Testament of the amazing ageability of Pinotage as a variety, is still youthful in a way with very fine development, smoky black plums, savoury, engaging style, persistent. Now until 2024 - Reserve Price Per Case – R4,000

### **Ken Forrester Wines The FMC Stellenbosch Chenin Blanc 2010 MC 94 Points**

60 bottles on offer. Ripe notes of peaches and honey, spicy lemon cut, juicy with a broad texture lingering. Now until 2028- Reserve Price Per Case – R3,000

### **Le Lude MCC Vintage Brut Agrafe Sparkling Wine 2012 MC 95 Points**

30 bottles on offer. One of South Africa's and Franschhoek valley the most exciting sparkling wine producer of the last five years, could be mistaken for a very good Champagne, taut, linear, precise brimming with energy. Now until 2028- Reserve Price Per Case – R5,400

### **Le Riche Wines Reserve Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 MC 96 Points**

180 bottles on offer. Classic textbook Cabernet, pure, ripe, super concentrated cassis note, impressive oak integration, savoury freshness. Now until 2038 - Reserve Price Per Case – R3,000

### **Nederburg Private Bin R121 Paarl Shiraz 2011 MC 93 Points**

900 bottles on offer. Private Bin are exclusively made for the auction. Spicy blueberries, fleshy with underlying tannic grip, structured, tea leaf complexity, intellectual wine. Now until 2028 Reserve Price Per Case – R1,800

***- Miguel Chan is the Group Sommelier for Tsogo Sun***