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Michelangelo CCL Label Cape International Wine Awards pay tribute to South African wine excellence

Tuesday, September 15, 2009 by Waterford Communications

The Michelangelo International Wine Awards (MIWA) announced the results of the 13th annual competition at a gala event at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West on Saturday 12 September 2009.

A record number of 1,502 entries from 263 wine producers were received - 160 more wines than in 2008. Red blends, Shiraz and Sauvignon blanc entries dominated the competition with red blends being the most entered category with 220 entries, Shiraz with 188 entries and Sauvignon blanc with 179.

The entries collected a total of 524 medals of which 52 were double gold, 191 gold and 279 silver. In addition, nine trophies were awarded. In accordance with the rules of the Michelangelo International Wine Awards, a maximum of 30% of the entries may be awarded a medal which adds to the prestige of a wine bearing a Michelangelo medal. For a wine to be awarded with a double gold medal, it has to score 96 points or more, and for a gold above 92 points.

"Noticeably the 2009 competition attracted a substantial number of new producers, as well as unusual cultivars such as Tannat, Nebbiolo and Barbera. Innovative wine styles were also entered for instance white Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon blanc and a Malbec Noble Late Harvest. This shows that South African winemakers are permanently innovating," said Sue van Wyk. Sue has been on the judging panel for the Michelangelo International Wine Awards since the inception of the competition 13 years ago.

"The Michelangelo Wine Awards is now firmly established on the South African wine calendar. With wine production increasing world wide, local wine producers have to work even harder to ensure their share of the local and international market. We aim to help producers identify wines that will appeal to the international palate. Since 2008, the competition has also accepted tank and barrel samples accompanied by independent analysis. We believe that this assists producers to benchmark the quality of their wines," added Lorraine Immelman-Steyn.

Unlike other South African wine competitions, the Michelangelo International Wine Awards is judged by a panel consisting of international judges plus only one local judge. The panel of judges were:

- Sagi Cooper - Israel
- Marin Berovic - Slovenia
- Ingrid Adamiker - Austria
- Herve Lalau - Belgium
- Susana Esteban - Portugal
- Quentin Sadler - UK
- Francesco Venerini - Italy
- Hwee Peng Lim - Singapore
- Christine Rudman - South Africa
- Argyrios Kallianiotis - Greece
- Petronella Salvi - France
- Sue van Wyk - Australia
- Ruben Garcia Franco - Spain
- Marie Roginska - Poland
- Thierry Sabon - France



Lorraine Immelman-Steyn



Sue van Wyk