



WINE FRATERNITY at Pretoria Country Club

Dear fellow wine lovers

Sitting here, enjoying a Saboteur white from Luddite with friends on a game farm, we can only reminisce the great times we had with the winemakers at our club, as they are facing challenging times like most industries. They will remain friends at PCC and we will always welcome them with open arms.

I fondly remember the evening with Duncan Savage and Jeremy Walker. At that point in time, Duncan was probably one of the best white-wine makers with his record-breaking Cape Point Islay wine and Jeremy with his 10-year-old magnum reds. A night of incredible stories, with the soutines entertaining us in broken Afrikaans. When Neill wanted to leave, Duncan "tackled" him onto the couch in the library and that was it. Some more bottles were opened and even a brandy or two, and later we all tried to find our homes. Until today, no one remembered where Duncan and Jeremy stayed.

Another unbelievable evening, was with Niels Verburg (Luddite) pairing his wines with George's canapés. The Russian ambassador thoroughly enjoyed his evening and seemed to not get enough by leaving last. We all tasted his epic File Thirteen Shiraz which broke the record for wine sales at any given wine event at PCC. Niels is one of our preferred suppliers, where members are able to receive a 10% discount when purchasing his wine. The Wine Fraternity planned a braai at the tennis boma in May with Niels; however, due to lockdown regulations, this will only take place in 2021.

Who can forget the epic "Battle of the Sexes" evening with Louis Strydom (Ernie Els Wines) and his wife Rianie (Strydom Family Wines). Rianie took the laurels in a 5-course blind tasting. What a fantastic evening. Louis will also be back next year to try and reclaim the R200 Nico van Rensburg (Ernie Els's brand manager) lost to Vivian and I on the golf course.

We also think back to the evening with David Sadie when he chose to join us instead of the Platters Price, where he won two 5-star awards that year. He is still going strong as one of the stars of the Swartland with his sustainable farming initiatives.

Please don't forget Dewald Heyns, wine maker of Saronsberg, with his "Weathered hands" Guild wine, one of the best ever tasted at the club. Dewald always entertains us with his best Shiraz wines, truly a master in his field.

The Cape Winemakers Guild will have an online auction this year. Since 2012, PCC hosted the Guild as a pre-auction tasting event as is the case in Johannesburg. Some of our members visited the auction in 2013 and 2014 down in the Cape, with stunning stories drinking 10-year-old Cape Point Sauvignon Blanc with Duncan and then the famous Friday afternoon braai at Beyers with Cuban Cigars, 15-year-old Grappa and Pinotage Beer.

To conclude, I would like to quote Paul Sauer:

"Don't be intimidated by the pretentiousness of those who purport to be wine connoisseurs. Please, do not allow them to get in your way and don't allow the snobs to terrorise you. Don't become obsessed with the 'right' wine. Decide for yourself what a good wine tastes like. For you, the best wine is the wine that tastes the best, and to hell with the rest."

We would like to invite you and our wine makers to our next chapter where you can make our club yours.

Johan Mook Chairman

