

ACHIEVEMENTS | 2017

ACHIEVEMENTS | 2017

VITIS VINIFERA

Shortwood Chenin Blanc 2017 – DOUBLE GOLD
Imbuko Chenin Blanc 2017 – GOLD
Imbuko Merlot 2015 – GOLD
Imbuko Cabernet Sauvignon – GOLD
Van Zijl Bushvine Chenin 2017 – GOLD
Van Zijl Chardonnay Viognier – GOLD
Van Zijl Shiraz Mourvedre 2015 – GOLD
Van Zijl Coffee Pinotage 2016 – GOLD
Du Plevaux Chenin Viognier – GOLD
Du Plevaux Sauvignon Blanc – GOLD
Du Plevaux Shiraz – GOLD

VERITAS

Van Zijl Blue Ink Cabernet Sauvignon 2015 – BRONZE
Du Plevaux Chenin Viognier 2017 – SILVER
Du Plevaux Sauvignon Blanc 2017 – BRONZE
Du Plevaux Pinotage 2015 – SILVER
Du Plevaux Shiraz 2015 – SILVER

MICHELANGELO AWARDS

Imbuko Chenin Blanc 2017 – DOUBLE GOLD
Van Zijl Shiraz Mourvedre 2015 – GOLD
Du Plevaux Chenin Viognier 2017 – SILVER
Du Plevaux Pinotage 2015 – GOLD
Du Plevaux Shiraz 2015 – GOLD
Pomula Pomegranate – GOLD
Pomula Berry Vanilla – GOLD
Pomula Passion Friut – SILVER
Pomula Moscato Spumante – SILVER

BEST VALUE

Van Zijl Coffee Pinotage 2015 – Best Value
Pinotage
Shortwood Red Blend – Best Value Red Blend
Imbuko Merlot 2014 - Best Value Merlot
Van Zijl Cabernet Sauvignon 2014 – 3 ½ / 5 stars
Van Zijl Bushvine Chenin 2016 - 4 / 5 Stars

Getaway

2017
**best
value
wines**



+30 SA RESTAURANTS WHERE YOU CAN TAKE THEM!

Best Value Pinotage

Van Zijl Coffee Pinotage 2015
3½ Stars / R50 / V7

Coffee Pinotage remains a sensation. It was discovered 'by accident' about a decade ago when Wellington wine estate Diemerskloof had a bit of a cellar crisis. Because the winemaker didn't have enough tank space, he put his freshly pressed Pinotage juice into new, heavily toasted oak barrels – and discovered that it then developed a rich mocha aroma and flavour.

Vold! A new style of wine was born and has been much emulated ever since – not to mention much criticised by purists. Regardless of the pro and con arguments, coffee-styled Pinotages are turning people on to drinking red wine and their enthusiasm should not be discounted.

Van Zijl is one of the brands in the Imbuko stable and winemaker Theunis van Zyl has nothing but admiration for what his Wellington neighbour, Diemerskloof, has achieved.

'People always talk about liking dry wines, but the truth is that everyone likes a bit of sweetness,' he says. Which is why the Van Zijl Coffee Pinotage is just a touch sweeter than most.

Consumers can expect to find a distinctly smoky, freshly brewed coffee aroma in this wine, but it's backed up by rich black fruit and spice flavours in the mouth.



The other top 3

Rooberg Red Chair Bean There Pinotage 2015 2½ Stars / R40 / V6
Aan de Doorns Pinotage 2015 1 Star / R40 / V6
Orange River Collars Pinotage 2015 2 Stars / R42 / V6

Best Value Merlot

Imbuko Merlot 2014
2½ Stars / R38 / V5

Imbuko is a dream come true for founder Theunis van Zyl. From its early beginnings in 2003, when it set out as a virtual wine with no physical brand home – just a whole lot of enthusiasm, energy and passion – the label has grown exponentially.

The first four years of operation saw Imbuko playing purely on the international wine stage before being 'repaired' to South Africa. 'I wanted to start a great-value brand that consumers could enjoy – and it was easier to do that in the UK market than locally,' Theunis states candidly.

Once Imbuko was a sound business proposition internationally, Theunis gradually built up stocks in order to supply the local market.



The other top 3

Bakberg Merlot 2015 2 Stars / R44 / V4
Slanghoek Private Selection Merlot 2015 2 Stars / R46 / V3
Font Simon Michele O'Donoghue Merlot 2015 2½ Stars / R48 / V3

Overall Best Value Producer: Imbuko

Wellington is something of an overlooked, even forgotten, area of the South African winelands. It's all too easy to be seduced by the glitz and glamour of architectural masterpieces or historic Cape Dutch manor houses in Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl when driving through wine country.

Yet Wellington has much to offer in the way of authentic charm, not to mention great value, and nowhere is this more obvious than in this year's winner of top honours in the Best Value competition, Imbuko Wines.

Many wine lovers might well be scratching their heads and going 'Who?!' Imbuko – which in Xhosa means 'admiration for' – has steadily built up an admirable track record since its first bottling in 2004. Winemaker and innovator-in-chief

Theunis van Zyl admits he did things back to front when he started out: 'I had R1 200 in my bank account, a cellphone and a computer...' And, obviously, a whole lot of energy and belief in himself and his wines.

Imbuko now exports to 47 international markets – and although it has only had a presence in the local

market for the past four years, it is already making established players sit up and take notice. 'I took all the lessons I learned establishing Imbuko internationally – listening to the Dutch, the Russians, the Americans and the Chinese – before bringing it all back home,' says Theunis.



Best Value Red Blend

Shortwood Entry Red Wine NV
3 Stars / R25 / V20

Here's a wine that does what it says on its label: it's simply an unassuming, entry-level red for 'now drinking' that won't cost you a king's ransom for the privilege. What's more, it was one of only two wines that achieved the ultimate value rating of 20 out of 20!

Even after all the mathematical wizardry had been applied, it was obvious that this was a blended red that far outstripped the expectation of its R25 price tag. Then again, that's been the mantra of the team at Wellington-based Imbuko Wines since they launched their first wines in this range in 2012.

For all the wine geeks wanting to know what has gone into this blend, it's made from equal parts (50 per cent each) Shiraz, Cabernet

Sauvignon, Pinotage, Cinsaut and Ruby Cabernet.

The last two grapes are not as well known as the first three, but they offer winemakers additional colours to play with when blending. In particular, Cinsaut is starting to make a comeback in wine circles after being overlooked for several years, during which it was considered a grape that merely cropped well, providing lots of juice to stretch a blend's volume. Increasingly, winemakers are appreciating the cheery berry fruitiness that it adds.

The tasting panel noted that this wine offers up bright red cherry and spice aromas, while there is also an nice earthy depth on the palate that balances its lightness and approachability well.



The other top 3

Mt Vernon Unbelievable Red NV 2 Stars / R25 / V20
Balance Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 3½ Stars / R35 / V16
Aan de Doorns R43 Deep Red 2015 3 Stars / R30 / V15

