



Embargoed until Thursday 29th November 13.00 (11.00 UK GMT)

South Africa brings home two Gold medals from IWC

South Africa picked up 103 medals in the latest round of the International Wine Challenge (IWC), the world's most influential wine competition.

Of these, two were Gold, both scoring 95 points. Both Gold medals go to white wines;

- Lothian Vineyards' Chardonnay 2017
- Quoin Rock Wines' Namysto Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2017

South African wines were also awarded 19 Silver medals, 43 Bronze and 39 Commended.

Quoin Rock from the Western Cape was awarded three Silver medals, as was **Hartenberg Estate** (Stellenbosch). **Lothian Vineyard** in Elgin also gained Silver. **Stellenrust** Wine Estate (Stellenbosch), and **La Motte** (Western Cape) picked up two Silvers each.

Other Silver medal winners included **Ernie Els Wines**, **Asara Wine Estate**, **Home of Origin Wine**, **L'Avenir Wine Estate**, **Graham Beck**, **Bosman Family Vineyards**, **Kleine Zalze Wines**, and **Saronsberg Cellar**.

Dr Jamie Goode, one of the six co-chairs who oversee the judging process, said: "I think that if a wine achieves a medal in the IWC then it's a safe bet for a good bottle this Christmas. It takes a lot to get a Silver, and the Golds are rare!"

Charles Metcalfe, another IWC co-chair and founder, added: "We don't just hand out medals to our favourite winemakers! Every medal has been awarded after a blind tasting by experts from all over the world."

The Silver medals show the breadth of South African wines, with medals awarded for reds, whites and one sparkling rosé (**Graham Beck**). The grape varieties in these Silver winners include Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Merlot, Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, and Shiraz while blends featured Semillon, Cabernet Franc and Grenache Blanc.

The first part of the 2019 International Wine Challenge – Tranche 1 – saw 212 wine experts from 23 countries judging the wines over four days in London. Tranche 2 judging will take place from April 1-11, 2019, with the results announced on May 8.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 36th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's finest and most meticulously judged competition. The IWC assesses every wine 'blind' and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Each medal-winning wine is tasted on at least three separate occasions by a minimum of 12 different judges including Masters of Wine. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. The IWC is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

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