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## 2008 Auction News

02 Jun 2008

Dear wine enthusiast

David van Velden, fourth generation winemaker on Overgaauw, is proud to see the winery's 1988 Port on this year's Nederburg Auction in September.



Although he was only eight years old when the wine was made, he looks on it now as a fine example of Overgaauw's winemaking philosophy taught to him by his father Braam, who learned from his father David, who in turn learned from his father Abraham, who founded the Stellenbosch estate in 1905.

Produced in Overgaauw's hallmark Cape European style, the Port still shows the vibrancy of youth despite its 20 years. It is a blend of six Portuguese varieties – Tinta Barocca, Tinta Francisca, Tinta Roriz, Sousão, Cornifesto and the first Touriga Nacional to be brought into the country, planted by the Van Veldens.

David says the Port's relatively low sugar content of 80 grams per litre adds an additional complexity, allowing for greater varietal expression, and has lent a spicy nutty finish after extended maturation in the bottle. He is delighted by its firm tannins and its longevity.

"I hope the wines I produce will have as much lasting power," he says modestly. Now 28, the recently married David has taken over the winemaking reins from his father, who has given him the scope to "let me bump my head".

"Actually, I spend lots more time with him in the cellar now and he provides very sage advice."

David wants to maintain the stylistic consistency carved by his father but is making what he self-deprecatingly refers to as a few minor tweaks on the famous Stellenbosch farm. "I'm monitoring the performance of some newer Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot clones. The idea is to have a wider variety of building blocks from which to work."

He also calls on his father and a few non-partisan tasters to evaluate the wines he makes. "It's important to bring in outsiders so we don't become the victim of the cellar palate phenomenon, where we limit our references and

appreciate only what we know.”

The chances, however, are slight, given the enduring legacy established by his father, who followed a classical model of winemaking, learned in France and Germany, and adapted it to local conditions, earning him the widespread respect of his peers and the recognition of the industry. Like his father before him, David seeks to express as much as possible of the vineyards in his wines. “The cellar is merely an extension of the vineyard.”

So it is in the 1988 Overgaauw Port and so it will be in David’s wines that will hopefully also find their way onto the Nederburg Auction, continuing the unbroken tradition begun by his forbears in 1975.

Overgaauw is one of only five wineries to have participated in the Nederburg Auction since its inception 33 years ago. The others are the host, Nederburg, as well as Delheim, Groot Constantia and Simonsig.

There will be only 10 6-bottle cases of the 1988 Overgaauw Port on offer.

A list of all wines up for auction on September 19 and 20 will be featured in the catalogue, to be available in July.

Kind regards

The logo for Christine Joubert, featuring the name 'Christine' in a stylized, cursive font where the 'C' is large and loops around the 'h'.

CHRISTINE JOUBERT  
Auction manager

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