

Season's Greetings to all our readers

As the year draws closer to the end we would like to make use of this opportunity to say Thank You. Bon Courage Estate has shown great success during 2008 thanks to your contribution.

Bon Courage Estate has increasingly being recognized at international competitions the last few years. This year, however, has been exceptional. Our congratulations go to our winemaker, Jacques Bruwer and his team for producing a WORLD-CLASS wine in 2008. Cap Classique Jacques Bruère Brut Reserve 2004 was judged worldwide as BEST bottle fermented Sparkling Wine (Cap Classique) at the International Wine and Spirits Competition in London! Jacques Bruwer's objective was to produce a world-class wine – 'the very best of its kind' and at last he has achieved it!

We would like to wish all our loyal customers a 2009 that is filled with joy, love, good health and prosperity.

Happy Festive Season and safe travelling!

Kind regards, The Bruwer family and Bon Courage team.

INKÁRA SHIRAZ - AMONGST THE BEST IN THE WORLD

The importance and objectivity of wine competitions are not often up for discussion. It is claimed that luck plays a bigger roll than superiority.

With **Bon Courage Inkára Shiraz** no luck is involved. The results are impressive and consistent and it is no secret that Inkára Shiraz is in a class of its own.

Not only did this wine become **BEST SOUTH AFRICAN SHIRAZ** at Pick & Pay Wine Magazine Shiraz Challenge in 2007, but it also won gold medals at the world's number one Shiraz competition, **SYRAH-DU-MONDE** for two consecutive years. And if this was not enough the estate has just received another Gold Medal for the Inkara Shiraz 2006 from **THE INTERNATIONAL WINE AND SPIRIT COMPETITION** in London.

The International Wine and Spirit Competition is one of the toughest and most influential wine competitions in the world, where less than 2% of all entries receive a gold medal.

Together with five other producers, Bon Courage was also short listed for the Dave Hughes trophy for **South African Wine Producer Of The Year**. Bon Courage – A truly world class wine estate.

On a festive note we would like to remind you to stock up for the holiday season!!

Meet our winemaker ...

Jacques Bruwer, born in 1966, literally grew up in the vineyards and it was therefore no surprise that he decided to follow in his father's footsteps. After completing school he studied winemaking at the prestigious Elsenburg Agricultural College in Stellenbosch. In those days the 10 best students of the Cellar Technology course were allocated a block of Chardonnay grapes to work with. "It turned out to be a very significant experience", he recalls. "My father always said that to him the ultimate in winemaking was to produce a "Champagne" in the traditional way and that is what I decided to do with my block of Chardonnay".

After studying the science of winemaking for several years he gained further practical experience in both Germany and France and in 1990 he joined his father on the family farm. Over the years this cooperation has developed into a genuine and fruitful team effort with André focusing on the viticultural side and Jacques on the cellar.

Although still young, he has certainly had his share of both national and international recognition.

One of his proudest achievements was when he produced a World -Class wine, with its Cap Classique Jacques Bruere Brut Reserve when it was awarded as best bottle fermented sparkling wine in the world by the International Wine and Spirits Competition.

Another proud accolade was also when his Shiraz received the prestigious "General Smuts Trophy" in 2003. The same vineyard block also produced the wine that was awarded "Best South African Shiraz" in the Wine Magazine Shiraz challenge in 2007 and went on to claim gold medals at the Syrah-du-Monde in France for two consecutive years. Of particular importance to Jacques is also to have won both the "Cap Classique Challenge" and the "Classic Wine Trophy Show" in 2004.

"Consistency across competitions can't be bought", says Jacques, "and it proves that we are on the right track".

Jacques is married to Trudie. They live on the farm together with their three children Inge, Karli and André – the fourth generation of Bruwers.

Noble Late Harvest

Noble Late Harvest 2008 is now available and boasts with an elegant new packaging and gift box.

Remember to place your order soonest in order to still receive these ideal Christmas gifts!

"Mense is soos wyn. Sommiges verander in asyn, maar die beste word beter met die verloop van die jare"

Wine Stain removal tips

For a dried stain, white wine will help to bleach out the red colour. Baking soda will also soak out the colour if you lay on a paste.

When a wine stain has just happened, the liquid hasn't set into the fabric yet. If it's clothing, then stretch it out over a pan and then pour boiling water through it. The stain should wash right out. If it's something like a rug, you can't usually pour water THROUGH it. Instead, take a washcloth and blot at the stain - rinsing the washcloth often.

Absolutely Blush Cocktail recipe

Ingredients

- 12 oz. Blush Sparkling Wine, well chilled
- 3 tbsp. Raspberry flavoured syrup for drinks
- Fresh raspberries, rinsed
- Ice

Fill hurricane with ice. Add raspberry syrup. Fill glass with Blush sparkling wine and top off with a few raspberries!

GOLD at Michelangelo International Wine Awards

With several local and international accolades recently received, there can be no doubt that the Bon Courage range of wines is versatile and excellent quality! The Bon Courage White Muscadet 2008 gained a Gold Medal at the Michelangelo International Wine Awards. The results were announced at a glittering gala event at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West on 13 September 2008.

The White Muscadet 2008 is rich and gold in colour with an intense Muscat and raison bouquet, all confirmed on the palate. It is a well-balanced desert wine with a lingering aftertaste and can be enjoyed all year round, lightly chilled or with crushed ice.

Quick Wine Storing Points

- Store in cool place with little temperature fluctuation
- For long term storing, maintain high humidity levels (65% - 90%)
- Keep out of direct sunlight
- Keep away from heavy vibrations (motors shutting on and off)
- Find out the age worthiness of your wines before they are past their prime
- Buy a little more storage than you think you need
- Keep bottles on their sides

ON A FESTIVE NOTE

With over 16 000 visitors in 2008, the Wacky Wine Weekend is undeniably South Africa's biggest regional wine festival. The festival celebrated its 5th birthday in June this year and was once again a tremendous hit!

The festival spans the valley with activities taking place at cellar doors and other hot spots. Bon Courage Estate was once again buzzing with all the visitors! On the menu was the

estate's famous bubbly and oysters for the weekend. It was a successful, fun-filled weekend and enjoyed by all.

On 17 – 19th of October 2008 the Robertson Wine Valley hosted their annual Robertson Wine on the River. This open-air wine festival took place on the banks of the Breede River between Robertson and Bonnievale and visitors had the opportunity to taste more than 200 wines from the valley! Be sure to diarize 4 – 7 June 2009 for next year's Wacky Wine Weekend and 16 – 18 October for the annual Robertson Wine on the River. Bring the family and join us for a special experience!

Wine and Cheese Pairing

- White wines match best with soft cheeses and stronger flavours.
- Red wines match best with hard cheeses and milder flavours.
- Fruity and sweet white wines (not dry) and dessert wines work best with a wider range of cheeses.
- The more pungent the cheese you choose, the sweeter the wine should be.

Wine Magazine Cap Classique Challenge

Cap Classique Jacques Bruère Blanc de Blancs 2005 received 3 ½ stars and was amongst the Top 10 at the prestigious 2008 Wine Magazine Amorim Cap Classique Challenge.

This elegant wine is recognized as a fine Cap Classique by its distinctive yeastiness and citrus on the nose. The palate is softened by rich creamy flavours. The wine underwent secondary fermentation in the bottle and was kept on the lees for 36 months.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the administrative staff, some 60 people are employed in production. These team members live with their families on the estate in houses provided for by the farm. In order to empower all our staff with a variety of skills, a Skills Development Centre was recently established.

A Women's Discussion Club and literacy classes for illiterate staff members will soon be created and a variety of social activities are arranged for the youngsters at weekends.

Since most parents with small children are working, Bon Courage has also organized a crèche for the small ones where they are fed and bathed before being fetched by their parents at the end of the working day

For André's wife Irmela, who initiated the development centre and the crèche, it is all a matter of taking responsibility and giving people a chance to improve. "It is about changing people's lives and to prepare for tomorrow".

Huwelisklokkies lui vir jongste Bruwer

Op Saterdag, 19 April 2008 is Pieter Bruwer (André se jongste seun en rekenmeester van die landgoed) met Neldine Smal van Caledon getroud!

Ons verwelkom Neldine as deel van die familie en wens die paartjie 'n lewensreis gevul met vreugde en liefde toe!

BREëRIVIER IN VLOED

Bon Courage Landgoed het ook deurgeloopt onder die swaar reën wat in November geval het. Reën het vir 3 dae deurdringend geval en 160mm is aangeteken gedurende die tydperk.

Die rivier was in vloed en sy waters het oor sy grense gestroom. Dit was die ergste vloed sedert die 1981 Lainsburg vloed. Wingerde was onder water en het selfs die brug en muur by die ingang van Bon Courage laat inmekaar tuimel. Gelukkig het die water gou genoeg gesak en geen permanente skade is aan die wingerde aangerig nie.

Groot opruimingswerk het baie tyd in beslag geneem aangesien toegangspaaie weggespoel het. Dit het die taak aansienlik bemoeilik.

Volgens André Bruwer, eienaar van Bon Courage, is die plaas baie bevoorreg dat geen permanente skade aan wingerde aangerig is nie en dat die reën nie 'n negatiewe effek op produksie en kwaliteit sal hê nie.

BON COURAGE ENDS YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE!

To end a golden year, the estate received excellent John Platter 2009 ratings!

- Four ½ stars....
- Inkará Shiraz 2006
- and Four stars....
- Inkará Cabernet Sauvignon 2006
- Cap Classique Jacques Bruère Brut Reserve 2004
- Noble Late Harvest 2008
- White Muscadel 2008
- Bruère Gold Reserve Pinot Noir 2006
- Cap Classique Jacques Bruère Blanc de Blancs

Travellers and wine lovers passing through the area are welcome to visit the historic tasting room in the old manor house or to enjoy a delicious lunch, a glass of wine or a cup of coffee at Café Maude – a place for rest and relaxation under an old African pepper tree.

The estate has an extensive range of wines, which are available for tasting and purchase at the estate or at selected retail outlets throughout the country.

The Bruwer family and staff welcome you to Bon Courage!