OUDSTE ZONNEBLOEM LANDGOEDWYN EERSDAAGS OP VEILING

Vier bottels 1945 Zonnebloem Cabernet Sauvignon landgoedwyn word eersdaags op veiling geplaas.

Die wyn is gemaak deur John (JWL) de Villiers wie die eienaar en wynmaker was van Zonnebloem plaas, Simondium, vanaf 1942 tot 1948.

Die bottels spog met die oorspronklike Zonnebloem etiket, gebasseer op die de Villiers-familiewapen, met die leuse *La Main A' L'oeuvre* (die hand wat werk). Dit is die oudste oorblywende Zonnebloem landgoedwyn.

In sy sewe jaar as wynmaker het de Villiers nagenoeg 700 pryse en trofeë verower, onder meer die WH Lategan trofee, die *Farmer's Weekly* silwer medalje en die *Quality Wine Growers' Society of South Africa* trofee (in beide1945 en 1946). Met die 1946 skou het hy 10 bekers verower – die meeste ooit deur een wynmaker – asook die *Farmer's Weekly* se goue medalje. De Villiers is ook as die Suid-Afrikaanse kampioenwynmaker aangewys.

De Villiers se Zonnebloem Riesling en Cabernet Sauvignon is ook gekies vir die amptelike wynlys van die Wit Trein waarmee die Britse koninklike gesin in 1947 deur Suid-Afrika getoer het.

De Villiers, wie in die laat 1940's beskryf is as die wynkoning van Suid Afrika, is egter kort daarna in Julie 1948 oorlede op die vroeë ouderdom van 32.

Pas na sy skielike dood doen die destydse SBW (Stellenbosch Boere Wynmakery) suksesvol aansoek om die naam Zonnebloem as handelsmerk in hul naam te registreer. Die de Villiers-familie was onbewus van die registrasie en het eers op 'n veel latere stadium daarvan verneem. Beswaar is aangeteken by die destydse besturende direkteur van SBW, JB Dempers. Die laaste brief aan Dempers in hierdie verband, gedateer 20 September 1973, is nooit beantwoord nie. Hierdie saak bly dus onafgehandel. In 1956 is Zonnebloem verkoop aan de Villiers se skoonsuster, Marie Crouse, waarna dit in die besit van die Crouse-familie gebly het tot in 2003.

Die 77-jaar-oue wyn word sedertdien bewaar deur John de Villiers Junior. Die vier bottels is uitgesoek as die bestes uit 'n versameling van 28.

Luidens geskiedskywer Chris Venter se artikel in die *Historia Joernaal van die Historiese Genootskap van Suid Afrika* Vol. 57 No. 2 van November 2012, is die wyn op twee geleenthede deur wynkenners beoordeel. In 1977 het die *International Institute of Masters of Wine* die wyn beskryf as '*magnificent, superb wine – a great experience*'. In 1986 bied Francis (Duimpie) Bayly, destydse produksie direkteur van SBW, 'n wynproe aan in die maatskappy se 'tabernakel' waar hierdie wyn, onder andere, beoordeel is. Die wyn-ghoeroe Godfrey de Bruyn was van mening dat hierdie wyn die kriterium was waarteen die ander wyne getoets moes word.

Dr William Winshaw, stigter van SBW, het die 1945 Cabernet Sauvignon beskou as '*the first great red wine ever to be produced in South Africa*'.

OLDEST ZONNEBLOEM ESTATE WINE SOON ON AUCTION

Four bottles of 1945 Zonnebloem Cabernet Sauvignon estate wine will soon be placed on auction.

The wine was made by John (JWL) de Villiers who was the owner and winemaker of Zonnebloem farm, Simondium, from 1942 to 1948.

The bottles bear the original Zonnebloem label, based on the de Villiers family crest, with the motto *La Main A' L'oeuvre* (the hand that works). It is the oldest remaining Zonnebloem estate wine.

In his seven years as winemaker, de Villiers won nearly 700 prizes and trophies, including the WH Lategan trophy, the Farmer's Weekly silver medal and the Quality Wine Growers' Society of South Africa trophy (in both 1945 and 1946). At the 1946 show he won 10 trophies – the most ever by one winemaker – as well as the Farmer's Weekly gold medal. De Villiers was also named the South African champion winemaker.

De Villiers' Zonnebloem Riesling and Cabernet Sauvignon were also selected for the official wine list of the White Train on which the British royal family toured through South Africa in 1947.

De Villiers, who was described as the wine king of South Africa in the late 1940s, however died shortly afterwards in July 1948 at the early age of 32.

Shortly after his sudden death, the then SFW (Stellenbosch Farmer's Winery) successfully applied to register the name Zonnebloem as a trademark in their name. The de Villiers family were unaware of the registration and only became aware of this at a much later stage. Objection was lodged with the then managing director of SFW, JB Dempers. The last letter to Dempers in this regard, dated 20 September 1973, was never answered. This matter therefore remains unresolved. In 1956, Zonnebloem was sold to de Villiers' sister-in-law, Marie Crouse, after which it was owned by the Crouse family until 2003.

The 77-year-old wine has since been looked after by John de Villiers Junior. The four bottles have been selected as the best out of a collection of 28.

According to historian Chris Venter's *Historia Journal of the Historical Society of South Africa* Vol. 57 No.2 of November 2012, the wine was judged by wine experts on two occasions. In 1977, the International Institute of Masters of Wine described the wine as '*magnificent, superb wine – a great experience*'. In 1986, Francis (Duimpie) Bayly, the then managing director of SFW, presented a wine tasting in the company's 'tabernacle', where this wine, among others, was judged. The wine guru Godfrey de Bruyn was of the opinion that this wine was the criterion against which the other wines should be tested.

Dr William Winshaw, founder of SFW, regarded the 1945 Cabernet Sauvignon as '*the first great red wine ever to be produced in South Africa*'.

Mnr. en Mev. J. W. L. de Villiers [Foto deur Henri Kreuger, Paarl.

„Zonnebloem" Wyne—Die Sensasie van die Wynskou

Mnr. J. W. L. de Villiers het op die onlangse wynskou 12 eerste pryse en 6 tweede pryse behaal. Dit word as 'n Suid-Afrikaanse rekord op 'n landboutentoonstelling beskou en is volgens gesaghebbendes 'n wêreldrekord. Wyn word op „Zonnebloem" vir die laaste 180 jare al gemaak en deur die Furter-familie sedert 1892; vanaf 1920 is daar begin met die maak van goeie wyne.

Mnr. de Villiers het die volgende tien bekers en een goue medalje gewen:—

- *Hugh Bairnsfather Wisslbeker*—klas 27.
- „*Quality Winegrowers' Society*" *Beker*—klas 30.
- „*Monis Regina*" *Beker* van „Monis Wineries Ltd."—klas 15.
- *G. N. Maskell Wisselbeker*—klas 13.
- *H. E. H. Brinckman Wisselbeker*—klas 28.
- *C. W. H. Kohler Wisselbeker*—klas 16.
- *P. B. Burgoyne Wisselbeker*—meeste punte vir droë wyne.
- *Frank Myburgh Wisselbeker* vir die beste uitstaande droë wit wyn.
- „*Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery*" *Wisselbeker* vir die beste droë rooi wyn op die skou.
- *W. H. Lategan Wisselbeker* vir die meeste punte op die skou, uitsluitende leerling-klasse.
- *Goue Medalje* van die „Farmer's Weekly" vir die meeste punte op die skou.