

Bouchard Finlayson recognised as a leading player in biodiversity conservation

OCTOBER - Boutique vineyard Bouchard Finlayson has been awarded Championship Status from the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative, in recognition of their commitment to conserve Cape's biodiversity for future generations.

The award comes in the same week that the award-winning Hemel-en-Aarde Valley wine producer was given a five-star rating for the Bouchard Finlayson Hannibal 2010 by South Africa's leading wine guide, John Platter.

Bouchard Finlayson has been part of the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative (BWI) for the past six years, and has become the 22nd environmental leading wine farm in South Africa to be awarded Championship Status.

The BWI is a partnership between the South African wine industry and the conservation sector, aimed at protecting the Cape's rich floral kingdom.

"BWI Champions are exemplary wine producers who have made a commitment to conserving our unique Cape winelands, with at least 10% of their farm committed to conservation, while implementing environmentally responsible management practices both within their cellars and on the farm," says Martin Albertus, BWI project co-ordinator.

Bouchard Finlayson has fulfilled the stringent BWI Member criteria, established and audited by the BWI committee.

"We are delighted to have been awarded Champion Status and pay tribute to our part-time conservation consultant Frank Woodvine, who has been clearing alien vegetation, rehabilitating the natural flora and fauna and monitoring the indigenous species with great success," says Bouchard Finlayson winemaker Peter Finlayson.

"For the past 16 years, we have also maintained a research plot under guidance from Professor Cliff Moran (previous University of Cape Town Dean of the Faculty of Science), on which the study of biological control against invasive tree species is underway."

The new status comes at a time when the vineyard is being recognised for producing wines of exceptional quality. Bouchard Finlayson was recently named as the South African Wine Index's Top Wine Cellar for 2010 and Finlayson recognised as Viticulturist of the Year. World renowned wine critics James Molesworth and Stephen Tanzer both awarded the Bouchard Finlayson Pinot Noir Cape Winemakers Guild 2009 an outstanding 92 out of 100 points, and this showed as it sold on auction for nearly twice the price of any other wine of the same varietal. Independent ratings guide eRobertparker.com also recently rated the Bouchard Finlayson Crocodile's Lair Chardonnay 2008 at 92 points.

Bouchard Finlayson is part of a portfolio of hospitality interests including the Red Carnation Hotel Collection, namely The Oyster Box Hotel, Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve and Wellness Retreat and The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa.

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