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Swiss wine farms in South Africa

Some interesting facts about Swiss-owned domaines viticoles in South Africa, from small estates to prestigious brands.

The brand is passionately owned by the Swiss Saager family from Zurich with **Eikendal Vineyards** founded in 1981. The 70 ha farm produces 200'000 to 250'000 bottles of wine every year, thereof 70% for export. The cooling, moistening effect of the breezes from the nearby



Eikendal is one of the most prestigious wine brands of South African Twist Travel

Atlantic ocean combined with the excellent soil structure of Eikendal's vineyards form ideal conditions for growing noble vines such as the Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Shiraz, Chardonnay, Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc.

As possibly smallest wine farm in the Cape, **Bein Wine** consists of only one single vineyard of Merlot and an accordingly small but nifty boutique wine cellar. Originally from Switzerland, Lucan and Ingrid Bein bought in 1993 a piece of land in the heart of the Stellenbosch Winelands. Having worked for many years as veterinary practitioners back in Switzerland, they decided for a career change, went back to University and emerged 4 years later with a B.Sc. as oenologists and viticulturists. Today, they focus wholeheartedly on the production of their quality Merlot.

Named after Kyburg

Fred and Rosmarie Ruest left for South Africa in 1972, in Switzerland they had lived near Kyburg where the name of their wine estate originates from. In 1998 they bought a 28 ha farm in the picturesque

Devon Valley where they started producing small quantities of red wine and today they produce around 45'000 bottles a year, a third of the grapes.

Glen Carlou was established in 1985 and since 2003 has been successfully owned and run by Hess Family Estates. When the Swiss-based Hess Family Estates entered the wine industry in 1978, its mission was clear: to focus on the production of premium quality wines.

Dornier Wines is located on two estates, both with long traditions. The history of Keer-weder goes back to 1694, when it was acquired by Jac van Dyk. The Homestead farm includes a historic Sir Herbert Baker homestead and one of the oldest wine cellars in the area. The Dornier family bought the first farm in 1995, planted most of the vineyards and opened a new cellar in 2003.

The story of **Creation Wines** is as old as the hills – dating back to when Mother Nature created South Africa's beautiful Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge and bestowed upon it exceptional winegrowing conditions. At the same time, the story is as young as the vibrant team who since 2002 has been investing their talents to create a wine range of great distinction. To make the success story even more interesting, it also has its roots in the famous winelands of Neuchâtel, where two young Swiss winemakers and viticulturists forged a close friendship, Jean-Claude Martin and Christoph Kaser.



Creation Wines winemakers Christoph Kaser (left) and Jean-Claude Martin

Eikendal Vineyards & Eikendal Lodge, T. 021 8551422; Bein Wine, T. 021 8813025; Kyburg Wine Estate, T. 021 8652876; Glen Carlou, T. 021 8755528; Dornier Wines, T. 021 8800557; Creation Wines, T. 028 2121107 Gisela Piercy

New at the Embassy: Markus Schrader

Markus Schrader is working as Head of Economic Cooperation and Development at the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria. He coordinates the projects of the economic development cooperation of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, SECO. The aim of these activities is to foster inclusive economic growth. A strong focus lies on sustainability and on mitigating the effects of global warming / climate change. Before joining the Embassy, Mr Schrader was a project manager in the Division for Trade Promotion at SECO since 2006 and he dealt mainly with issues of market access for goods and services from developing countries.



Mr Schrader arrived at SECO after having worked for several years for an international development organisation in Brussels, mainly on issues of international trade and rural development. On an educational background, Mr Schrader holds a postgraduate degree in law.

Read more about the Swiss Economic Development Cooperation at www.seco-cooperation.ch

Kurt Grüter at XX INCOSAI 2010

The Head of Switzerland's supreme audit institution, Kurt Grüter, Director of the Swiss Federal Audit Office in Berne, participated in the triennial congress, called INCOSAI, of the International

Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) comprising 189 members from all continents.

INCOSAI is an umbrella organization for the external government audit community and is an autonomous, independent, professional and non-political forum in which government auditors from around the world can discuss issues of mutual concern and keep abreast of the latest developments in auditing. The fact that the Congress takes place in South Africa shows the importance the South African authorities place on professional auditing of governmental bodies in accordance with the highest international standards. It also highlights the prestige of South Africa's Auditor General Terence Nombembe who hosted the Congress and will be chairing INTOSAI for the next three years.

During his stay in South Africa Mr. Grüter paid a visit to the Swiss Embassy in Pretoria and gave a speech at the Swiss Cham Gala Dinner in November.

Welcome, Mauritius and Angola!

Our citizens in Mauritius and Angola will notice that in the first issue of 2011 the Swiss Review has changed the local pages. They now receive the South African version in the English language with the contributions that local editor Ms Gisela Piercy in South Africa gisela@african-twisttravel.com puts together. This issue is sent to Swiss in the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Swiss Embassy in Pretoria contributes regularly and can thus reach Swiss citizens by means of this channel within the consular circumscription.

IDC South Africa visited Switzerland

Representatives of the Industrial Development Corporation recently visited Switzerland with a view to finding out about the Swiss cleantech sector.

During their trip, which was facilitated by the Swiss Business Hub South Africa, they visited more than 10 cleantech companies and organisations (Swiss Association for Environmental technology, Clean tech Switzerland, the Federal Office for the Environment, etc.) in order to learn more about clean technologies, energy efficiency and resource management. The IDC representatives found the Swiss waste management systems and the energy won there from to be very impressive. They also found the Public Transport system and the low-emission vehicles

used to be of particular interest. Raoul Goosen, one of the IDC delegation, is of the opinion that there is a big market waiting in the future for foreign companies wishing to enter the South African market.

Royal Gala-Dinner in Lesotho

In November King Letsie III of Lesotho hosted all Ambassadors accredited to Lesotho at the traditional Gala Dinner. The Swiss Ambassador Rudolf Baerfuss represented Switzerland at this occasion; it was his third time. Guest of honour was Dr. Jean Ping, President of the Commission of the African Union. The Prime Minister and all Cabinet Ministers were present as well as Lesotho's 15 Ambassadors abroad. King Letsie III gave a remarkable speech emphasizing the states' responsibility to protect the population. Mr.

Baerfuss also met Finance and Development Minister Tim Thahane, the Director for Europe in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several Ambassadors based in Maseru.

Proposed Auslandschweizer Law

Your delegates at the Auslandschweizerrat (ASR), Rolf Schudel and Peter Müller, will be required to give inputs regarding the "Southern African Auslandschweizer viewpoint", in respect of a proposed law which will formalize the Swiss Confederation's relationship with its citizens abroad.

The importance of the Swiss Abroad is presently enshrined in the Constitution. This will remain so. But the liaison both at the individual, as well as the political, economic and social level, needs to be amplified and spelled out.

Also the election of your two delegates to the ASR which is presently effected through the 9 accredited Swiss Clubs in South Africa, is being examined. The view in Bern is that this should no longer be effected in this manner, but that all Swiss registered at the various consulates should be able to vote in a specially staged local election. Besides being costly and ignoring the important local work done by Swiss Clubs in Southern Africa, the outcome of such elections will be largely the same as before. For this reason, your delegates are against a change from the present system in Southern Africa. However, we would like to hear from you on how you feel about this matter. sargro@bluewin.ch, fax: +41628932907, telephone: +41628932906, P O Box 123, 5103 Wildegg, Switzerland.

Peter Müller,
ASR Delegate for South Africa

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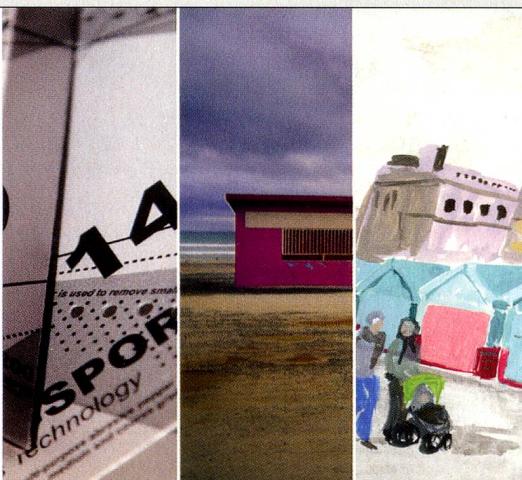
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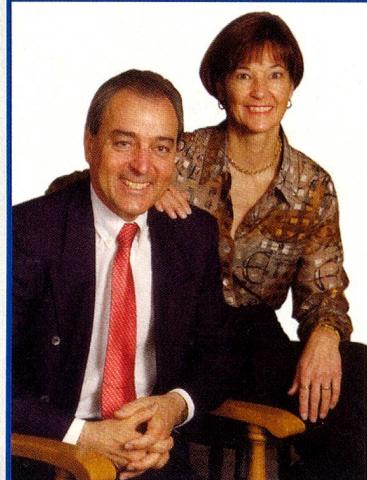


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Important Websites

Some 40 years ago, the History of the Swiss in Southern Africa became an important issue amongst the Swiss in Southern Africa.

Swiss such as Kurt Scheurer and Felix Ernst in Johannesburg, Adolphe Linder in Cape Town and Oskar Berner in Zimbabwe and Namibia, began documenting and doing research in this regard. Most prolific publishers have been Adolphe Linder and Oskar Berner, both of whom have published valuable books which have become Africana. With the benefits of the computer evident, and the need to archive existing material, your Auslandschweizerrat delegate Peter Müller, deemed it opportune some 3 years ago, to investigate and plan for an appropriate website where Swiss

in Southern Africa could have access and not only read some history, but actively participate in writing it themselves by entering their own histories.

The website is www.swissroots-za.ch and you are invited not only to visit the site, but to make it your own, by recording your own history and story there.

The Auslandschweizerrat and Auslandschweizerorganisation has re-moulded its Supporters-Club and the money it had into www.swisscommunity.org. The author encourages you to join this website and enjoy contact with Swiss abroad. In due course, our own website will have an active direct link with the ASO www.swisscommunity.org

*Peter Müller,
ASR Delegate for South Africa*



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SWISS CLUB INFO AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Debora Lanz, T/F 0118053039, C 0826516152, swissclubjh@whoswho.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier»

In November Sepp Wolf with 39 members of 2 Trachten-Gruppen, Alphorns, Jodlers und Orgeli gave us a super performance and an enjoyable and "Heiweh" evening with over 100 Swiss members and friends attending. Our Swiss Choir also joined in with one of their own Alphorn Numbers and a few songs to finish off this special evening to remember. The traditional "Ferngegeln" against our "ex-pats" in Switzerland was held in November and Team South Africa won! On the 5 December 2010 our Swiss Christmas Lunch for all our Swiss Senior Citizens, Members and friends was again a great success. For 2011 we are planning to rekindle an "Aelplerfest" to be held in March. Our AGM is scheduled for end of March or beginning of April, the date has still to be confirmed. Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch; Evi Frei 011 673 464

PRETORIA

Swiss Embassy 0124520660, Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com

CAPE TOWN

Swiss Consulate General T 0214183665, Swiss Social&Sports Club, Nick Eppenberger, Nicky Rodrigues T 0722185759, membership secretary: eppenberger@telkom.co.za, www.swissclub.co.za

Finally, our club house renovations are complete and if you haven't seen it yet, it looks absolutely STUNNING! The club is open on Wednesday & Thursday evening for dinner or just a drink with some friends. Forthcoming Events: Club re-opens Jan 5; Jan 23: New Year Brunch - club; Feb 13: Waldfest - Jonkershoek; Mar 24: AGM. For further details visit our website www.swissclub.co.za

SWISS CLUB NATAL

Hanspeter Graber, T/F 031 568 2457, C 083 262 6107, hansg@saol.com 23/01/2011 Ten Pin Bowling at the Pavilion, 19/02/2011 Culture Evening (Swiss Film Abend), 6/03/2011 AGM at the Kearsney College Grounds

SWISS CLUBS EASTERN CAPE

Port Elizabeth

John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 0413792421, the_dieners@bluewin.ch, comm.member Mark Krebsen C 0823281098, T 0413671422

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH

Paul Thomas, PO Box 148, Makado 0920, C 0823343187 Girardin T 0155563690

NAMIBIA

Hon. Consul K. Neuenschwander, Veronica Strasse 22, Ludwigsdorf, PO Box 9298, Eros/Windhoek, T +26461225116, F +26461220104; Schweizer Club, Peter Hess, T +26461252943, C +264811246890, phess@africa.com.na

SWAZILAND

Ruedi Hofer, Calabash Rest., T (h) +2684161095, T (w) +2684161187, C +2686028545, calabash@swazi.net

ZIMBABWE

Swiss Embassy, Harare (represents Angola, Malawi+Zambia), T +2634703997/8, F +2634794925, vertretung@har.rep.admin.ch

MAURITIUS

Club Suisse de Maurice, Secrétaire: Alois Fürer, Comet Street 19, Roches Brunes, Beau-Bassin, T 466-2014 fureralois@intnet.mu

Delegates of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad for Southern Africa:

Peter Müller
T +41 62 893 2906,
F +41 62 893 2907,
sargro@bluewin.ch,
P.O.Box 123, CH-5103 Wildegg;

Rolf B. Schudel,
T +27 11 452 2716,
C +27 82 574 9883,
rolfbschudel@rolfbschudel.ch,
Beukes Avenue 49, 1609 Edenvale,
Johannesburg;
1, Via al Piana 7, 6988 CH-Ponte
Tresa, (0)79 394 53 59.

IMPRESSUM

Editor of Swiss Review

Southern Africa:

Gisela Piercy, P.O. Box 408, Kenton-on-Sea 6191, South Africa, Phone 0466482632 Fax 0866020489, gisela@africantwisttravel.com

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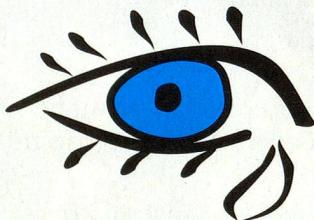
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