

WINING & DINING

SES'FIKILE HAS ARRIVED IN WINELANDS



WINEMAKERS: Jacky Mayo, Nomvuyo Xaliphi and Nondumiso Pikashe of Ses'fikile Wines.

I Len Maseko
T'S rare today to extol the virtues of black empowerment or publicly toast it without attracting a suspicious or disapproving look.

Not even a wolf stripped of its disguise of sheep's clothing would invoke as much dismay.

Much less perhaps even if the beast's free-loading while in disguise among the unsuspecting flock culminated in the utter silencing of the lambs.

With its rogue status clinging on it like inclement weather, small wonder some BEE heirs display the look of a dog that has lapped up an unsuspecting owner's breakfast.

But, whatever BEE's shortcomings and virtues, it's not been all dog-eats-dog snarling.

There are some people who have made quite a success of its opportunities through blood, sweat and toil, and all this without the privilege of being born with the proverbial silver spoon in the mouth.

One of the real success stories is Ses'fikile Wines, 100 percent BEE-owned and controlled by three Cape Town women who dumped teaching for the endeavour of creating their own wines.

They are Jacky Mayo, Nondumiso Pikashe and Nomvuyo Xaliphi. Backed by

the winemaking team at Flagstone winery in Somerset West, the trio is producing quality wines that have even attracted the attention of Marks and Spencer in the United Kingdom.

It's hard for Pikashe not to brim with pride whenever talking about their wines.

"We are dedicated to growing and crafting beautiful wines. All the wine rocks, actually," she says.

Ses'fikile wines consists of three ranges - the discovery level range called Rain Song, the exploration range called Folklore and premium called The Matriarch.

The wines are crafted in new world style: upfront, sumptuous fruit and full-bodied structure. Easily drinkable, with a hint of elegance that comes from being hand-crafted.

Ses'fikile wines will be among 500 wines on display for tasting at the Stellenbosch wine festival, which will take place from July 30 to August 2.

Stellenbosch is the oldest wine capital of the Cape Winelands with the route being home to 145 world-class wineries over the past 350 years.

Two highlights of the event will be a week-long activities before July 30, when event organisers will line up exclusive winemakers' dinners, adventurous day trips to farms, rare wine tastings and restaurant specials.



WINEMAKER'S NOTES

■ **Folklore Sauvignon**

Crisp and fresh, this wine is perfect for light summer lunches or to be enjoyed on its own.

It will complement fresh leaf salads and lots of sunshine and good company. Crisp and fresh with a delicious, lingering aftertaste, this Sauvignon can be paired with decadent dishes such as braai crayfish, snoek pâté, lemon dressed Mozambique prawns and goats cheese soufflé.

■ **Rainsong Pinotage**

The gorgeous, juicy red berry and plum flavours in this wine beg to be served alongside crispy roast duck with a black cherry sauce, carpaccio of game with a berry compote and wild quail.

This rounded wine has fresh melon aromas that make it a perfect partner for dishes such as Parma ham and honeydew melon, seared tuna steaks with a lemon dressing, sushi as well as subtly spiced dishes like bobotie.

■ **Rainsong Shiraz and Folklore Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc**

Soft and subtle with gentle spice - match these reds with marinated rack of Karoo lamb, olive and brinjal truffles with a spicy tomato salsa and calves liver with bacon and mustard mash potatoes.

These full-bodied wine will complement most meat dishes, but we would especially recommend roast beef fillet, oxtail curry and warm, rich briedies and stews.

WIN WINE!

Sowetan, in conjunction with the Stellenbosch Wine Festival (July 30 - August 2) is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a case of Ses'fikile sublime wines. These consist of two cases Matriarch Sauvignon Blanc, one case Rainsong Pinotage, one case Rainsong Chenin Blanc, and one Folklore Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc. To stand a chance of winning a case, simply SMS SESFIKILE followed by your full name and ID number to 41936. SMS charged at R2. Winners will be contacted by phone. You have to be 18 years or older to enter.