

Newsletter #1 November 2011

"The secret to a rich life is to have more beginnings than endings..."

Having spent three months travelling in South America with Léanne, Robyn and Grant in 2008, I felt it was time to follow my dream of producing my own wine. Thus began my exciting journey, a new beginning.



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My consultancy business "Vines to Wines" has provided me with the opportunity to experience the wonderful diversity within the winemaking and grape growing industry.

After three years of working with some of the most committed grape growers in the country, I had the opportunity to strategically select the finest grapes from a variety of vineyards on the slopes of the Helderberg and Simonsberg mountains.

Marrying traditional winemaking, science, art and the use of modern technology, this wine was matured in French oak barrels for eighteen months before blending and bottling.

I am delighted to share the launch of my maiden vintage, *First Verse 2009* with you - a blend of 32% Cabernet Franc, 26% Merlot , 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Malbec and 10% Petit Verdot. *First Verse* offers a fine rhythm of flavours, a harmonious synergy of elements and well-balanced tannins - *earth's poetry in a bottle*.

This wine has been awarded four and a half stars in the 2012 Platter's Wine Guide. According to Platter, "this cabernet franc-led, 5-way Bordeaux red is like an expensive Swiss watch: classy, elegant & perfect, all the little details present & polished, harmonious...".

I firmly believe that the art of winemaking is based on relationships, passion, integrity and authenticity. *First Verse* encompasses this philosophy. The journey which has brought this launch to fruition has been made possible through the support and commitment from so many people: growers, industry suppliers, designers, printers, family and friends; to whom I am eternally grateful.

Regards,

Christopher Keet

