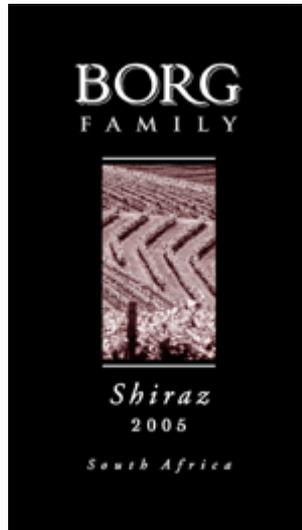


Greetings from Borg Family Wines

Episode One - January 2007



The breaking news from Paarl is that it is HOT HOT HOT - five days of 40 °C to 43 °C - what a relief to feel a cool breeze this morning.....so bizarre to know that some of you are surrounded by 2" of snow! Fortunately, this follows a really cool, wet spring and early summer, so the recipe is just right for great wine!



We have made a number of trips in our trusty old landrover, Jemma, to check on the progress of our grapes in the past couple of weeks. It is amazing to see the huge differences in the two vineyards from which we are sourcing our fruit.

From the castle view vineyard (image on left), ones eyes wander over the rolling wheat fields to the distant slopes of the Riebeeck kasteel mountains beyond. These were named after the first governor of the Cape. It is incredibly dry in the summer here and seeing the sheep huddled under the shade, it becomes clear why the landscape is punctuated with lone trees here and there.

Ingwe meaning leopard (image on right), is a maritime vineyard bordered by massive mountains and a clear view of the turquoise waters of the Atlantic and the Cape peninsular beyond. Banks of stone pine trees help to keep the wind at bay and offer precious shelter to the vines. The climate is more temperate here, markedly cooler.



The difference between the soil types is also very apparent. The rich red oakleaf soil of Castle view is set off fantastically by the verdant green of the vine leaves and the deep, deep blue of the sky and the puffy white clouds. This is the best soil type in SA and together with the vines not being irrigated, gives a wonderful intensity to the wine.

The kroonstad soil at Ingwe is a sandy, low yield soil which together with the temperate climate, allows the grapes to ripen more slowly and gives the wine elegance.



It was a highlight for the children to be able to ride around on the back of the farmer's truck, hanging on tight as we bounced through the vineyards checking out the various blocks of vines which have been reserved for us. Savannah dressed for the occasion!

Jemma has also come into her own as she is put to the use she is intended for, transporting grapes and riding over the rough terrain.



Oliver takes a break.



Jeremy is in his element striding through the vineyards.



'Justice' clambered up the tower of barrels to bring us samples of the 2006 vintage. The barrels now need to be carefully blended to make the optimum wine and should be in the bottle any day but that's another story.....

And finally, a special tree at Ingwe - it has just dawned on me that I am drawn to trees like a magnet and they, more often than not, play a key role in my landscape images.

Labels for our maiden vintage shiraz are ready and waiting for the printing press and we expect that our wine will be available for you to enjoy very soon.

Wishing you a great glass of shiraz!

From the Borg family