

Events Overview 2008



The *Taverner Vol 12 No 3* – The inaugural GoodLife Festival of Fine Brandy – a festival dedicated entirely to the country’s finest brandies was held at the Sandton Sun Hotel. This classy new initiative by the South African Brandy Foundation was the first-ever festival of all things fire water and is set to become the premier annual showcase for the South African brandy industry.

The Taverner Vol 12 No 4 – The best fare of 16 of Johannesburg’s top restaurants could be sampled at the Taste of Joburg at the Montecasino Outdoor Event Venue. Some of the cities’ most talented chefs personally prepared and served up starter sized portions of their trend-setting signature dishes. The world’s premium drink brands were available at Taste of Joburg, in specific chill-out zones within the festival. Visitors also had the chance to improve their culinary skills, as the chefs provided helpful hints and tips at the Woolworths Taste Chefs Theatre.

The Summer Good Food and Wine Show, a comprehensive and successful wine and food exhibition took place in November at the Coca Cola Dome, in Northriding, Johannesburg. The hundreds of visitors hosted during the four-day exhibition experienced cutting-edge food and demonstrations by an army of international chefs including Australian Curtis Stone; British-born Caribbean food maestro Patrick Williams; Thai food expert David Thompson, the infamous Tanner brothers James and Chris, old favourite Brian Turner and Rachel Allen dubbed “the blonde Nigella”.

The Taverner Vol 12 No 5 – Packed, smooth and vibrant are three words that could easily describe the successful 4th annual 2008 Standard Bank Soweto Wine Festival held in September. This year, 4 635 black wine enthusiasts flocked to Soweto’s premier wine-tasting festival weekend that was hailed a major success by festival organisers, sponsors, exhibitors and visitors alike.

In keeping with one of the festival’s primary objectives - to increase wine knowledge and local sales in the black South African market - the Wine Class, sponsored by Pick ‘n Pay and the Cape Wine Academy, was a festival first.

The 2008 Franschoek Cap Classique and Champagne Festival, sponsored by Investec Private Bank, showcased an array of celebrated Cap Classique producers as well as some of the finest French Champagne Houses.

This event featured acclaimed Champagnes such as Ayala, Billecart Salmon, Gosset, Joseph Perrier, Laurent Perrier and Pol Roger; as well as popular Cap Classiques like Bon Courage, Boschendal, Colmant, Constantia Uitsig, Graham Beck, Hazendal, Krone, Moreson, Pierre Jourdan, Pongracz, Simonsig, Steenberg and Villiera.

And looking ahead to 2009...



HOSTEX Gauteng 2009 show will feature a new initiative - a dedicated hall for the Liquor and Beverage trade. South Africa’s International Hospitality and Catering Exhibition (HOSTEX), the largest and longest running trade exhibition of its kind in Africa and the only one endorsed by the SA Chefs Association (SACA), will take place from 15 to 18 March 2009 at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg.

An exciting new section will provide visitors to the show with access to suppliers of bar accessories, bar furniture and other bar equipment. For more information, visit www.hostex.co.za.

The Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand will serve as a temple to the cocoa bean between 20 - 22 March 2009 for the annual Chocolate Festival, a platform where exhibitors can showcase, and visitors experience, every possible incarnation of chocolate.

The Chocolate Festival will be a 360 degree experience with theatre kitchens, chocolate inspired fashion, chocolate and wine tastings and a children’s fairyland, among others. Every taste, indulgence and passion will be catered for and the ancillary sectors of candies, biscuits, coffees, wines, brandies and other spirits are included in the mix. For more information, visit www.chocexpo.co.za.

The 2009 Joburg Wine Show, a three-day wine extravaganza, is scheduled for the weekend of 29-31 May 2009 at Gallagher Estate. Event organisers Highwood Exhibitions says that they have had a phenomenal response from last year’s exhibitors and 80% have already committed to the 2009 event, including significant players in the local wine industry, such as KWV.

The 2008 version of this event saw close to 8000 visitors streaming through the doors and sales volumes exceeded R2-million. This novel approach to wine education and promotion saw more than 80% of visitors buying wines at the show. For more information, visit www.wineshow.co.za.

The annual Stellenbosch Wine Festival will be held between 30 July 2009 and 02 August 2009 and will play host to thousands of local and international visitors. A comprehensive programme of festivities includes an opportunity to taste over 500 wines, meet winemakers and watch professional chefs compete in cooking competitions. Other highlights include historic tours, food, arts and crafts, related product and foods stalls, as well as a children’s entertainment area.