Audacia winemaker wins double gold at SA Young Wine Show 2014

Audacia winemaker Michael van Niekerk has been awarded with two gold medals, as well as a silver medal and a bronze award by the judging panel of this year’s SA Young Wine Show. Presented annually by the South African National Wine Show Association (SANWSA) – the SA Young Wine show gives winemakers the opportunity to showcase the best wines of their current vintage. It is the country’s biggest and oldest wine competition (180 years old) and grants wine makers from different wine regions the opportunity to benchmark their different still-in-tank wines, and showcase their more experimental styles and new varieties against those of their peers. One of the most prestigious and long standing local wine competitions, it is also the only one to evaluate wines from current vintages before they are bottled.

Van Niekerk’s two gold medals were awarded to conventionally wooded Shirazes from the 2014 vintage, while the silver medal was awarded to Audacia’s first Shiraz made using Rooibos and Honeybush wood. The wine is Audacia’s second “No sulphites or Preservatives Added” wine made using indigenous wood, the first being a Merlot from the 2013 harvest.

The innovation of using Rooibos and Honeybush wood in the winemaking process is making news worldwide. With South African Rooibos recently having been awarded GI (Geographical Indicator) status, a wine made using Rooibos wood has intrinsic cultural value. It is also a potentially huge scientific breakthrough, as there are strong indications that the antioxidants in the indigenous wood preserve wine, meaning Van Niekerk is able uses significantly less SO2. This is very beneficial to those who suffer from allergies caused by conventional preservatives used in wines. Rooibos wines also have a distinctive flavour profile.

Van Niekerk’s was also awarded the bronze medal by judges for his Cabernet Franc 2014.

Agri-Expo is the host at this year’s awards function which takes place on 22 Aug 2014 at Grand West Casino.

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