

History of Stettyn Family Vineyards

Our leadership...

A small team of dedicated wine farmers, guided by winemaker JM Crafford, has combined a “quality first” approach with innovative winemaking and is rapidly transforming Stettyn Cellar into a progressively marketed and sought after wine venture.

Stettyn Cellar is owner-managed by the following producers/members who all serve on the Board of Directors:

Stettyn Vineyards (George & Hendrik Botha)

Stettyn Estate (Anthonie & Johannes Botha)

Jonkersrivier (Phillip Botha & Gielie de Villiers)

Die Hoek (Hendrik Griessel)

History: 1714

A Proud Heritage.

The farm on which Stettyn Cellar is situated, is steeped in history and tradition dating back to 1714. In that year, Governor Chavonnes of the Dutch East India Company ceded the original farm to Free Burghers Cloete and Radyn, whose ancestors originated from the Stettin area, in the former Prussia. The Cape Dutch homestead, which dates to 1777, was the original house occupied by the first permanent settlers. It was restored and is now a National Monument.

Stettyn was acquired by the Botha family in 1818 and has been in the family for 8 generations. The Stettyn Cellar itself was established in 1963, with the vineyards of Stettyn, Jonkersrivier and De Hoek being the primary sources of production and where the tradition of wine making dates back many years.

Stettyn's history dates to the year 1714 when the farm Stettyn was granted to Jan Cloete and Jan Jurgen Radyn by the Governor of the Cape Colony, Mauritz Pasques de Chavonnes.

Radyn is believed to have been originally from Stettin, a small town in Poland. Orders to the early settlers were passed, for planting trees for timber, grain, and fruit trees, so that they might supply the travellers inland. The lovely old oak still stands proudly in front of the Cape Hollande mansion; and the old mill, with its massive millstone, still in working order.

Stettyn lies in a breathtaking valley between Villiersdorp and Worcester. Vast vineyards are surrounded by majestic mountains, which one can admire on the front porch of the tasting room. Terroir is the composition of qualities that make your vineyard different from any other. Stettyn's farms have a unique combination of soil types, climate, topography and location (the way the sun falls over the vineyard during the day) and the abundant flora and fauna. With the scientific investigation by the Wine and Spirit Council, they approved Stettyn with the Wine of Origin status. We are on the threshold between the cooler, wetter Boland and the harsher, drier Karoo. The frigid winters allow dormancy in the vineyards, while the surrounding mountains collect enough water for the hot summer months.

The extended family has been making wine since 1963, but did not release their first label until 2001.

With 438 hectares (70% white and 30% red varieties) planted vineyards, our modernized cellar has the capacity to harvest 7000 tons of grapes each year. We have the advantage in identifying specific vineyard blocks to produce the desired quality for both bulk and bottle production.

We believe that our products reflect the terroir and people of Stettyn, who stand proudly under the Stettyn brand.

PRODUCTION

More About Our Wine Production...

Wine has been produced on the individual farms since the late 1800's up until the 1950's, whereafter resources were pooled to build a modern cellar, with the first wine being produced in 1964. The centralisation of local winemaking, together with improved facilities resulted in a significant improvement in wine quality.

The area where our farm is located is blessed with a favourable climate to produce quality grapes, characterised by cold winters essential for effective vine dormancy and moderate summers aiding long, slow ripening. The total area under vines is 364 hectares, with production standing at about 6000 tons of grapes per year. Barrel maturation, as well as the serious science of making good Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc has become a focus area for Stettyn Cellars.