

Celebrate the Spirit of Kunjani

The usual greeting of "Hi, how are you?" is a common phrase that generally brings people together. It is a simple, yet profound greeting, capable of igniting; a phrase that crosses cultural barriers and brings people together. This is what *Kunjani* means, and this is the ethos that this bold, bright and exciting boutique winery stand by. In fact, it's precisely how the whole story began.

Kunjani Wines is a product of a cross-continental love between a German entrepreneur and a South African businesswoman who met by chance at a mutual friend's wedding. Both tenacious characters, possessing an unyielding zest for life, they conquered the barriers of language, culture and distance for the sake of this exceptional connection. The German, Paul Barth, spent most of his life growing up among his father's Riesling vineyards in the Rheingau region of his home country, and shared a passion for fantastic wine with his new-found South African love, Pia Watermeyer. The force that brought the two together was strong and before they knew it, they had found the perfect farm home, complete with vines and grapes bursting with potential.

Kunjani Wines, nestled in Stellenbosch's Devon Valley, now stands proud as a representation of love, tenacity, and a celebration of bringing people together. After a few years of hard work, their newest additions –to the farm, the tasting room and restaurant, are complete and greet visitors to the farm with big, bold, red lettering. The building is beautiful and said to be the perfect

combination of, "Paul's German precision and Pia's South African soulfulness."

Winemaker extraordinaire, Carmen Stevens, joined the team as consulting winemaker. From humble beginnings Stevens has become a force to be reckoned

with in the wine world. The first ever black South African female winemaker, Stevens held some incredibly prestigious positions. She is responsible for making Kunjani's limited range of wines from grapes grown on the property as well as sourcing fruit from some of the Cape's best vineyard sites. The formidable team recently bagged a Gold Medal for their Shiraz 2015, emphasizing that the proof is indeed in the pudding.

The new tasting room now offers guests a striking space in which to soak up the Kunjani spirit and taste the wonderful cellar offerings. In the stylish interior with its luxurious finishes, bold pops of red and orange complement the striking artworks that adorn the walls by local artists Krisjan Rossouw and Peter Pharaoh. Pia, together with the expert guidance of acclaimed designer, Haldane Martin, took the brand concept and really made it shine in the chosen space. Wines can be savoured here, together with Kunjani's tapas-style menu from the adjacent restaurant.

Executive Chef Lamek, together with Pia, developed an East meets West-style menu that celebrates the bringing together of cultures. Enjoy a glass of Kunjani wine with some delicious, fresh, seasonal fare that celebrates the concept of "fun dining with fine food".

Kunjani Wines is so much more than just a wine farm. It's a fairy tale, and a story of love

that knows no boundaries. A lesson for each of us, perhaps? And if you think that's the whole story, think again. The next time you're in the area, swing by Kunjani Wines for yourself, pour a glass, and settle in for more.

For more information on the wonderful wine selection at Kunjani, visit their website at www.kunjaniwines.co.za.

Stay a Little Longer at Kunjani

Four private vineyard cottages at Kunjani Wines are the perfect excuse to get away from the city and immerse yourself in the countryside. Breath-taking views of the vineyards abound in these charming, yet contemporary spaces that are fully equipped with all you would need to feel at home. Each cottage has luxuries such as washer-dryers, wall panel heating and air-conditioned bedrooms, as well as complimentary Wi-Fi.

Choose between a family-friendly space, or a more romantic vineyard escape.

The Merlot, Cabernet, and Shiraz cottages are all one-bedroom and one-bathroom spaces, which are the ideal romantic vineyard escapes. The Stolen Chicken Cottage is a more sizeable two-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom space with vineyard views and a sprawling patio. It also comes with an incredibly heart-warming story if you ask about the name.

Text: Julie Graham
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