

WHALEHAVEN

WHALEHAVEN CABERNET FRANC 2016 TRIUMPHS AT THE 5TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CABERNET FRANC WINE COMPETITION

Hermanus, South Africa – Whalehaven Wine’s Cabernet Franc 2016 has clinched the prestigious Best of Show award at the 5th Annual International Cabernet Franc Wine Competition, held on April 3rd, 2024, at the Copper Valley Golf Club Clubhouse in California.

The competition, renowned for its rigorous blind tasting format utilising the Danish system, ensures impartiality and fairness. Wines are “bagged and tagged with coded numbers,” with four tables of judges—comprising both Professional Judges and People’s Choice Judges—voting on medal designation, Best of Category, Best of Show, and Grand Sweepstakes. In cases where there is no unanimous agreement on the medal, lively discussions ensue, with judges debating the key characteristics of the specific wine to reach a consensus.

This year’s competition featured 91 wines across eight classifications by region or Cabernet Franc wine designation. The Regional awards were categorised into Eastern, Central, Northwest, Southwest, California (with five price point categories), International, Specialty Cabernet Franc Blanc, Sparkling, Rosé, and Blends containing a minimum of 50% Cabernet Franc grapes.

Whalehaven's Journey to Victory

Whalehaven Winery, the third oldest wine producer in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, has been meticulously crafting wines since 1995. Named after the protective bay that shelters breeding Southern Right whales during the Cape’s winter months, Whalehaven is a boutique winery situated just outside Hermanus. The winery has been wholly owned by the Bottega Family since 2003, producing a delightful array of handcrafted wines that intrigue and tantalise the palate.

The winning wine, Whalehaven Cabernet Franc 2016, boasts a deep garnet colour with competing aromas of savoury green peppers and ripe red cherries. On the palate, it reveals enticing flavours of wild strawberries and cranberries, creating a vibrant, mouth-watering experience with fine tannins and a long, lingering finish.

Reino Thiart, the winemaker at Whalehaven, has been with Bottega Family Wine for many years, contributing to the creation of one of the broadest spectrums of wines in the valley. Under his guidance, Whalehaven has consistently produced wines that reflect the unique terroir of the Western Cape’s beautiful Coastal region.

Celebrating Excellence in Winemaking

The Best of Show accolade in the International Division at the 5th Annual Cabernet Franc Wine Competition is a testament to Whalehaven’s dedication to excellence in winemaking. Competing against entries from around the globe, Whalehaven’s Cabernet Franc 2016 stood out for its exceptional quality and distinctive character.

This victory not only highlights the superior craftsmanship of Whalehaven Winery but also puts a spotlight on the Western Cape in South Africa as a premier wine-producing region. The award-winning Whalehaven Cabernet Franc 2016 is a vibrant representation of the rich winemaking heritage and innovative spirit that defines the winery.

Looking Forward

As Whalehaven continues to build on its legacy, this recent win is a proud moment for the winery, the Bottega Family, and winemaker Reino Thiart. Wine enthusiasts and connoisseurs can look forward to more exceptional wines from Whalehaven, each crafted with the same passion and dedication that led to the triumph of the Whalehaven Cabernet Franc 2016 at this year’s competition.

For more information about Whalehaven Winery and its award-winning wines, visit [Whalehaven Winery](#).