



Dornier celebrated for its contribution to wine tourism

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The imposing Blaauwklippen estate has been selected by the Great Wine Capitals Global Network as one of five wine estates worldwide to win a National Award for Architecture in their Best of Wine Tourism Awards for 2005.

This year's contest attracted a large pool of entrants from world-famous wine regions throughout the world, including many from Italy, France and Spain. Awards were issued to particularly distinctive wineries that demonstrated exceptional capability to cater for, and welcome, visitors and tourists.

A masterful fusion of art with architecture, it was Dornier's 500-ton winery that attracted the selector's attention. Mimicking the vision of owner Christoph Dornier - a vision that was realised by architect Johan Malherbe - the winery was completed in late 2003 and now offers a new attraction to visitors to the Winelands.

Aesthetically, the winery boasts a New York loft-style feel. Operationally, it's a masterpiece that's seen it described as 'one of the best wineries in South Africa because of its simplicity.'

The sweeping, curved roof reflects the profile of surrounding mountains to blend with the environment. Glassy water from an expansive pond mirrors the roofline and serves to cool the maturation cellar beneath. Industrial materials such as glass, stainless steel, anodised aluminium and wood predominate to give a pared-down, industrial-chic feel. Inside, an administration area flows effortlessly to cellar, maturation cellar and visitors tasting room that couples as a lookout post to the surrounding forest, vineyards, fynbos and mountains. Enormous glass windows flanking the central plaza adjacent to the tasting area allow for non-intrusive transparency into the winemaking process. Here, stainless steel fermentation tanks are suspended and walkways have been widened to prevent a cramped working environment.

Established in 1995, Dornier nestles on 167 ha of prime viticultural land at the foothills of the Stellenbosch Mountain. Owned by German artist Christoph Dornier and business partner and son Raphael, Dornier specialises in a small range of world-class blends designed to perfectly complement modern cuisine.

To date, Dornier has released three blends: its flagship Dornier Donatus Red 2002; Dornier Cabernet Sauvignon / Merlot 2002; Dornier Donatus White 2003. It's the unconventional and masterful synthesis of Old and New World styles in each of these wines that has seen Dornier receive exceptional success: -

-As of 2006, Dornier Donatus Red 2002 will be served in all Lufthansa's first-class passenger lounges and cabins.

-Dornier Donatus White 2003 is currently available to all guests on board South Africa's luxurious Blue Train.

-Leading UK wine writer, Matthew Jukes, described Donatus White 2003 as 'one of the cleverest white blends I have ever tasted' in the UK's No. 1 Wine Guide, his book *The Best 250 Wines of the Year 2005*.

-Influential US wine critic Robert Parker, awarded the Donatus White with '88 points' and praised its value-for-money pricing.

-In 2004, *Canada's Worlds of Wine* awarded both the Dornier Donatus Red 2002 and the Dornier Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 2002 with 4.5 points out of 5.

-*John Platter, South African Wines 2005*, gave both Dornier Donatus Red 2002 as well as Dornier

Donatus White 2003 an 'excellent' 4-star rating out of 5.

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