

Be amazed at the Amazing Wine Race

COBIE VAN OORT

A wet and rainy winter's day in the Winelands was no deterrent for a group of intrepid journo's eager to taste their way through the area's best wines. The group accepted the challenge as a shorter version of what the 50 participating teams can expect at this year's Amazing Wine Race, to take place on Saturday 9 August.

The first stop was world-famous Beyerskloof for a tasting and varietal identification task, which already challenged some of palates! *TygerBurger*

reporter Desirée Rorke literally had her tongue fumbling around the three red wine cultivars. "It's not so easy to distinguish between a good Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, especially if you love both and have only 30 seconds to do so!" she said. They also had the rare delight of tasting Beyerskloof Diesel Pinotage 2011, a highly sought-after vintage that was sold out "save for one last bottle Uncle Beyers had left in his private collection".

Anura Vineyards' wines were highly rated by the expert tasters. "Apart from the fabulously beautiful variety of wines we tasted here, I was also blown away with the outstanding cheeses available on the farm, paired with the wines," says Rorke. "I simply could not leave without stocking up."

Great Chardonnay, scrumptious snacks and a daunting cork-counting at Glen Carlou Estate beautifully rounded off the action-packed outing. "The views from the tasting room and dining room at this estate were breathtaking," says Rorke. "Between the three of us in our team, we over-counted with 300. How was that possible I thought



Wine tasting at Glen Carlou Estate - superb!
PHOTO: DESIRÉE RORKE

afterward? Possibly too much of a good thing? Never!"

Pets with a story

At Glen Carlou, the teams also met up with local charity organisation, Pets as Therapy, who will be the beneficiaries of this year's race. Chairman Dr Marieanna le Roux of Stellenbosch University, accompanied by one of their therapy dogs Juno, explained: "Our dogs are used in various therapeutic activities such as aiding children with reading where the children will read the story to the therapy dog," she said.

Le Roux who wrote her doctoral thesis on the influence the presence of pets have on children, said reading to the dog created a safe environment for the child with reading problems. "Research has proven that an animal can reduce anxiety levels in humans," she said.

Amazing wine, amazing prizes

The annual Amazing Wine Race takes place on 25 wineries around Stellenbosch and Paarl and pits the skills of teams of four against a range of wacky tasks dreamed up by the participating wineries. Teams are not timed on their travel time between wineries and a designated driver per vehicle is chosen.

The entry fee is R1800 per team of four, which includes morning coffee and a briefing session, the team kits, all the tastings and entertainment for the day, the prizes and the prize-giving dinner.

Teams can book their places by contacting Björn van Oort at bjorn@cvomarketing.co.za or 021 981-0216 during office hours. For more info, visit www.cvomarketing.co.za.