

# Swartland Winery introduce the Big 5

Whilst safari lodges boast about seeing the Big Five on a game drive it may come as a surprise that a Winery can also claim to have a Big Five.

Not quite what you were thinking of in terms of animals, but certainly big enough and (sometimes) dangerous enough to have a very hefty influence on how you enjoy the product and the journey that it takes.

So we invited a group of top wine writers to join us as we took them on a "safari" to experience our Big Five!!

This is what we introduced to our group:

**Coastal breezes** - affect the nature and quality of the wine and in the Swartland they have a huge influence – in fact the view from some of the producer farms for the Winery shows a distant Table Mountain in all its magnificence holding sway over this tip of Africa .

**The Swartland region** is in itself an interesting area, the biggest producer of grain in the Western Cape rubs shoulders with hectare upon hectare of dry land vineyards. Watering of the vines relies mainly on rainfall which is scant (between 400mm and 500mm per year) so many of the grapes are cultivated in the

bushvine method and relies on the cool breezes and mist coming from the coast.

**The terroir** – this is where the different soil types, micro climates and all other elements come together to create the perfect spot to plant a specific cultivar. Swartland Winery receives grapes from producers in a 20km radius, therefore we have a vast variety of terroir to choose from.

**The characters** of the region are big making up the generous hospitality of the area but one thing stands out, says Klaas. "Everyone has a nickname here, maybe it's to differentiate from the many Bassons and Smits we have!".

**Idelia** is the icon wine and is the last of the BIG Five being made up of five cultivars. This handmade wine is a limited edition and only 2000litres see the bottle and the best 10 out of 900 barrels are selected to make this sublime and wonderfully aromatic wine. It is a labour intensive wine and has complex yet classic nuances.



SWL649

SWARTLAND WINERY



Swartland Winery is proud to be sponsoring 13 of the Roer episodes on kykNet. Watch out for our wines being enjoyed by some of SA's popular faces!

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