

GLOBAL FLASH



Discover the World's Most Inviting Wine Tourism Experiences

The world's top wine tourism experiences were honoured at a gala dinner on November 13 at Vergelegen Winery in the South African Cape, when the Great Wine Capitals announced the winners of its annual Best Of Wine Tourism Awards for 2009.

The Best Of Wine Tourism awards, which this year saw a record 385 entrants from four continents, is organised with the support of wine industry leaders in each of its eight member cities.

Now in its sixth successful year, the international popularity of the competition reflects the growing stature of wine tourism, as travellers seek niche, tailored vacations instead of traditional packaged trips to the beach.

2008 saw the entry of Mainz, Germany into the Great Wine Capitals, which was officially celebrated at the Annual General meeting. Mayor of the Cape Winelands Clarence Johnson, president of GWC for 2009, together with Cape Town Mayor Helen Zille, hosted the week-long meeting of the eight-city organisation. Its activities included the launch of a new website, planning for 2009 and culminated in a glittering awards presentation dinner held at Vergelegen, which has twice won the Best Of Wine Tourism awards for South Africa, both for 2008 and 2007.

The international competition is designed to highlight and reward wineries and other premier wine-tourism businesses located in each member city that have distinguished themselves in terms of the excellence of their facilities.



Photo: Katherine Zimmer

Cape Town's acclaimed Vergelegen Winery.

2009 International Best Of Wine Tourism Winners

Bilbao-Rioja (Spain)

Fundación Dinastía Vivanco of Briones

for its Wine Documentation Centre: located at the Dinastía Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture. www.dinastiavivanco.com

Bordeaux (France)

Château de Carbonneau

for its stylish 19th century five-bedroom chateau accommodation, surrounded by vineyards. www.chateau-carbonneau.com

Firenze (Italy)

Villa Petriolo

in the Tuscan hills, selected for the annual literary competition, which discovers and promotes inedited pieces of work on wine culture subjects. www.villapetriolo.com

Mainz (Germany)

Wine-growers of the Rheinhessen

for their collective offerings of innovative wine tourism experiences. www.rheinhessen.de

Mendoza (Argentina)

Bodega Salentein

its cultural centre Killka that combines murals, sculpture and art and includes an 80-seat restaurant. www.bodegasalentein.com

Porto (Portugal)

Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo

for its Wine House, which runs along the banks of the Douro River. www.quintanova.com

San Francisco-Napa Valley (USA)

Domaine Chandon

for its *étoile* restaurant, considered the foremost fine dining winery-based restaurant in California's Napa Valley. www.chandon.com

Cape Town (South Africa)

Mont Rochelle Hotel & Mountain

Vineyards received its 2008 local award on this occasion; the property won in both the restaurant and accommodation category. www.montrochelle.co.za

For more information about Great Wine Capitals and the BEST OF competition, visit www.greatwinecapitals.com.