



Jabula **autumn 2006**

Quarterly newsletter of the South African International Association of the Riviera
Some won't know what this word means, so we'll keep you guessing until Winter.

Caring and Sharing – SAFI and Themba Hosi Care Centre – Singita, South Africa...

SAFI, with thanks to its members and guests donated 600 euros to the Singita Community Development Trust in Sabi Sands, South Africa at the recent Seborga lunch attended by South African guests, Mark and Paula Witney, Director of Singita Management Company. The Trust is managed by Singita Private Game Reserve, which holds secure, development funding contributed by Singita, generous guests and donors as part of its annual allocation to social outreach. A few of their programmes include the Themba Hosi Care Centre for physically challenged children, situated in the Sabi Sands. Currently, some fifty physically challenged children are taken care of by volunteers at the local church. Singita, in partnership with one of its guests and other local game lodges, commenced building a more suitable centre last year. The centre is now complete and will be ready for the 2007 school year.

The 600 euros or 6000 SAR donated by SAFI will go towards paying for some of the much needed equipment for the care centre. Many thanks again, it's your support that makes good things happen. Singita Private Game Reserve is a world-class eco-tourism and leisure operation voted "Best Hotel in the World" by Tatler and Conde Nast Traveller. For further details see www.singita.com

Selected to assist the rugby world cup 2007 organizing committee...



SAFI Président, Hugh Mitford-Raymond has been selected to assist with the media and protocol for the 2007 Rugby World Cup hosted by France in 2007. Hopefully this will include a sight seeing visit by the Springboks to the Riviera after the matches played in Montpellier with a meet the team event hosted by sponsors. Planning is currently underway and further details, as they become available will follow in the 2007 SAFI newsletters.

SAFI events for 2007...

Château de la Gaude-Saint-Jeannet along the heights of Cagnes-sur-Mer, will be the venue for the SAFI 2007 Nelson Mandela Day Celebration. This 11th century Templars castle and privately owned home is currently undergoing complete and detailed restoration and renovation and when complete, SAFI will be hosting this fun event (sometime in Spring 2007) at this magnificent, medieval castle. The owner has also kindly offered to donate some 5000 books to the Sabi Sands Schools project.

This event will be followed by the annual 'Midsummer Evening' at the lovely Villa Beauregard in Villefranche-sur-Mer in June (date to be advised) and the 'Out of Africa' Braai – Barbecue in the vineyards at Château des Chaberts in the Var on 2 September 2007. Additional events including the planned visit of the SA Rugby team (October) will be advised as they become available.

SAFI membership and networking...

Continues to grow. Remember, SAFI is for everyone, of all nationalities, who enjoy South Africa, its people, its culture, nature and heritage. Ten SAFI members recently visited South Africa on holiday, some for the first time. When visiting an unfamiliar country it's always good to have additional contacts and friends to point you in the right direction, understanding the culture, where to go and what to do etc. Apart from making new friends and the regular networking process, SAFI, via its events, provides an opportunity to meet others who have a detailed and intimate knowledge of Southern Africa. Perhaps a visit to Rooibos Tea Farms in Clanwilliam, or link up with resident South Africans along the Garden Route, also in and around Durban, Nelspruit, Johannesburg and Cape Town, business or pleasure, experience the warmth of traditional, South African hospitality. SAFI offers a wide selection of people, places and quality business connections to link up with.

A most successful tourism season lies ahead for South Africa. Even the beginning of December, usually a quiet time, is already well booked. The 19th World Diabetes Congress will take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in December, with 10 000 delegates, the largest ever business event hosted in the Mother City, and first ever to be hosted in Africa. The Congress is a welcome tourism boost not only for Cape Town but also for surrounding areas, with pre- and post- conference treats for delegates in surrounding towns, sponsored by major pharmaceutical companies. A large Danish delegation, for example, will be visiting Franschhoek.

The city has also just been awarded the World Pharmacology Congress, which will take place in July 2014. More than 10 000 doctors from around the world are expected to attend WorldPharma 2014, a congress bid won against Japan, Brazil, Israel and Korea. In addition, an international Gynaecology congress has been booked in the city for 8 000 delegates in 2009, as has an International Congress of Psychology for 6 000 delegates in 2012, reports the **Cape Argus**. To date the Convention Centre has hosted conferences of up to 2 500 delegates.

Business friendly country...

South Africa has been selected as the country in Africa in which it is easiest to conduct business, but ranks 29th out of 175 countries on business-friendliness, says the latest World Bank and International Finance Corporation study. Singapore was selected as the most business-friendly country in the world, followed by New Zealand, USA, Hong Kong, UK, Denmark, Australia, Norway, Ireland, Japan and Iceland, according to **Business Report**.

Best in the world...

Singita has been named 'Best in the World' in the **Travel & Leisure** 2006 World's Best Awards, being named as World's Best Hotel, Best Small Hotel and Best Hotel in Africa and the Middle East. The Singita Group has recently been awarded the management of three lodges in the Serengeti in Tanzania. The company is rumoured to be opening a hotel in Cape Town soon. The Sante Winelands Wellness Centre near Franschhoek has been awarded the Crystal Award 'Favourite Spa of Africa' by the USA **Spa Finder**, based on readers' choice.

Amnesty International honours Nelson Mandela...

Nelson Mandela was recently awarded the Amnesty International's "Ambassador of Conscience" award, the highest honour given by the global human rights watchdog. "More than any other living person, Nelson Mandela has come to symbolise all that is hopeful and idealistic in public life," said Bill Shipsey, founder of Art for Amnesty and an organiser of the annual award. Amnesty said it was bestowing the award on Mandela in recognition of his fearless championing of freedom and justice around the world, as well as his advocacy of the rights of millions of people with HIV/AIDS in Africa and beyond.

South Africa gains seat on United Nations Security Council...

South Africa takes up its two-year seat on the United Nations Security Council in January after it was elected to it with 186 votes out of 192 UN member states. It will be one of 10 non-permanent members joining permanent members Britain, United States, China, France and Russia to make up the 15-member Security Council.

Oppenheimer family sells a third of its shareholding in mining giant Anglo American...

The sale of the 1.13% stake by the company's founding family to Mr Yung, is estimated to be worth £424m (\$806m). Mr Yung, who is among China's richest men, is chairman of Hong Kong-based conglomerate CITIC Pacific. China is keen to boost its presence in resource and mineral-rich Africa as it looks to fuel its booming economy. Analysts said the Oppenheimer family's decision to sell a third of its stake in Anglo American could revive takeover speculation in the world's third-largest mining company. Anglo recently appointed US businesswoman Cynthia Carroll, as its new chief executive. Shares in London-listed Anglo were down more than 2.5% in late trading on the London Stock Exchange at the time of the announcement.

South African entente cordiale...

President Thabo Mbeki held economic and political discussions with French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin in an attempt to strengthen France's ties with Africa ahead of a Franco-African summit, to be held in Paris early next year. According to international media, the summit is seen as Paris's attempt to hold on to its declining influence in Africa. Foreign affairs spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said that Mbeki's talks with De

Villepin would be within the context of SA's priority to promote north-south cooperation with an aim to push back the frontiers of poverty and underdevelopment. Mamoepa said Mbeki and De Villepin were expected to discuss the status of political and economic relations between SA and France, and issues relating to Africa such as European Union and Group of Eight nations programmes concerning the African Union and New Partnership for Africa's Development. We wish the Nice Town Council would feel the same way. They are still pondering about the Cape Town – Nice Twinship, signed several years ago.

France ranks among SA's top 10 trading partners. SA's exports to France are dominated by machinery, mineral and base-metal products, vegetable products, chemical and allied industry products, and textile and textile articles. SA's top imports from France comprise mainly vehicles, aircraft, ships and associated transport, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipment, chemical industry products, plastics and rubber articles, and optical, photographic and cinematographic equipment. From January to June, trade between SA and France amounted to R12,5bn, with a surplus of R5,8bn in favour of France. Last year, trade amounted to R22bn with a R13bn surplus for France.

For the love of wine - less volume, better quality...

If French winemakers want to learn some lessons about how to overhaul their business without losing their soul, they might want to visit South Africa reports **Time Magazine**. During the apartheid era, South African wine was controlled by a government monopoly that set rules on viticulture that were every bit as strict as those in France. But in the last decade and a half, the industry has been essentially reborn as it has rushed to embrace the global market. The old monopoly has gone and producers have replaced over 40% of the nation's vines – ripping out the white grapes long favoured for domestic consumption and planting a wide range of reds for export. And they've learnt the hard way how to improve marketing and respond to changing world demand. At Simonsig winery in Stellenbosch, the Malan family has been producing wine for more than 300 years. During the 1990s it quickly discovered its style was badly out of date. 'The buyers told us our labels and packaging was too old and we had to start over' says Francois Malan. 'Today the operation is geared up to deal quickly with changing taste - we can turn around and develop packaging, the bottle and the product in a year'

It has been a wildly successful time – SA wine exports have grown almost eightfold since the early 1990s, and innovative marketing has helped. Charles Beck, for example, has enraged French authorities by making a successful Côtes-du-Rhône-style range that he calls Goats do Roam. And Nick Dymoke-Marr, who created a new brand called Stormhoek, added a date-code indicator on the back of the bottles that highlights when they should be consumed. The reasoning – 'with most food products, the concept of sell-by date is well established.' He's now trying to spread Stormhoek's reputation through wine-loving bloggers in the UK to whom he's been sending out free bottles in the hope that they'll post their tasting notes online. He enjoys 400 000 hits per month.

However, South Africa is also facing a squeeze. The global wine glut has caused drop in grape prices and producers had to scramble to deal with a 50% appreciation in the rand between 2002 and 2005 that pushed them out of the sector in which they initially made their name – cheap and cheerful supermarket wines for the UK. That hurt, but the glut's impact isn't as severe as it is in Australia or France. The South African solution wants to avoid the massive scale of the Australian industry and focus instead on smaller volume with much more complex wines. South African producers are pushing hard into new markets including Germany, Russia, USA, and Sweden which now takes 10% of South Africa's exports. So far so good. If we are going to be a niche player it is important we make a really premium product says Sue Birch, CEO of Wines of South Africa.

Producers also have another problem common with the French, while exports continue to grow, domestic markets are shrinking. Originally it was only whites who drank wine and with over one million relocated around the world, we are now marketing to the black population and there are encouraging signs of change. Two years ago the first wine shop opened in Soweto, 'I could never have opened the shop at a better time, the market is untapped - it's huge says Thami Xaba. Lets hope he's right. South Africa produces 3.1% of the world's wine and ranks as number nine in overall volume production.

Top wine awards...

More than two-thirds of the 2006 winners of the top Award of Excellence in the Diners Club International Wine List Awards are from Cape Town. Award-winning wine lists are recognised for the wine selection and its match to the foods served, storage conditions in the establishments' wine cellars, presence of trained wine stewards and wine-by-the-glass selection. The 2007 edition of the John Platter SA Wine Guide was launched in November. The selection of 25 five-star rated wines from over 6000 wines evaluated has already been announced. Only four wine estates have achieved the honour of winning two five-star ratings: Cape Point Vineyards for its 2006 Sauvignon Blanc (produced for Woolworths) and its 2005 Isliedh; Franschoek-based Boekenhoutskloof, for its 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2004 Syrah; Rudera Wines' 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2005 Robusto chenin blanc; and Boplaas 2004 Vintage Reserve Port and 1980 Cape Tawny Vintners' Reserve Port.

First ever champagne (or sparkling wine) festival...

Franschhoek hosts the first Nedbank Cap Classique and Champagne Festival in December. Cap Classique producers such as Krone, Bon Courage, Cabriere, Graham Beck, Boschendal, Pongracz, Simonsig and Villiera will bubble alongside champagne brands such as Bollinger, Dom Perignon, Moët & Chandon, Mumm and Veuve Clicquot, and will be paired with gourmet delicacies such as strawberries, oysters, salmon and foie gras.

Best places to eat in South Africa...

Eat Out, the magazine that annually decides the fate of the top restaurants in the country by announcing its Top 10 List of best restaurants, has revamped its website www.eatout.co.za with 1400 restaurants listed on the website. An 'Eat Out Fab Fifteen' section on the site highlights the most popular restaurants in the country, based on feedback by the public.

Get those winter woollies and skis out...

And, you don't have to go all the way to South Africa to experience real South African hospitality – it's right here. Chalet Alpina in the Italian Alps. Only 4 and a half hours from Nice, all motorway and the Italian prices will make you feel at home. Hotel Chalet Alpina - La Thuile - Valle d'Aosta - Italy. Please call Eddy and Debbie Tel +39 0165 88 41 87 or email info@chaletalpina.it see www.chaletalpina.it

Dear Safi...

I was riding home to London on the TGV yesterday and saw your announcement in the Riviera Times. My name is Linda Nissen Samuels and I am a Pretoria born artist with strong South of France connections. I live, paint and exhibit frequently around Cannes. I was struck by the fact that you are giving to African charities. I feel very strongly that I want to give back something to the continent that gave me such a wonderful start in life. For years now I have been doing the WaterAid Christmas cards (not every year, but they have sold 100,000 of my cards!) WaterAid is an international charity that specialises in clean water and sanitation. This year I have three cards for them and they are always of African women carrying water. I will be selling prints of this year's card design on my website with part proceeds to WaterAid. And ALSO have the forthcoming exhibitions arranged in L'Office du Tourisme, Palais de Festival Cannes 24th Dec- 1 Jan and at the Palm Beach Casino in February (Private view 2nd February). See www.nissensamuels.com

Looking for a friendly, home from home, hotel in Nice...

Within walking distance to Nice port and public transport with rooms or studios available at a very favourable, daily or weekly rate. Clair Hotel 23 bd Carnot, Impasse Terra Amata 06300 Nice. Please call Esther and Luba +33 (0)4 93 89 69 89 or mobile (0)6 68 21 52 02 or email hotel.clair@wanadoo.fr

Newly renovated apartment for sale in Nice...

Newly, tastefully renovated 60 square metres, bedroom, bathroom, walk-in cupboards en suite, large living area study-lounge-dining area-second bedroom, plus front and back balconies, fully equipped kitchen with quality appliances and Bose sound system throughout all rooms, ceiling fans, sea view, garage, cellar and security gates. Situated at end of cul-de-sac so no traffic noise in Sainte Marguerite / base of Fabron area. Close access to public transport, airport, shops etc. 275,000 euros. Walk in walk out. Telephone 06 75 93 90 93 or email safiriviera@wanadoo.fr for further details. Owner transferred to Paris. Private sale - no agents.

Keeping up to speed with The South African Times...

The SA Times is published in London and distributed across the UK and continental Europe. If you would like to receive the email version please log onto www.southafrican.co.uk and enter your email address. Email version is free.

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Rooibos Tea available at all SAFI events.

Proceeds kindly donated to community and conservation projects.