

OUR LOCAL HERO

Raise your glasses to wine maker Carla Pauw, who sparkles with her own range of boutique wines

Age and occupation 38, wine maker and wine consultant

Hails from Bloemfontein

By the nose Growing up, Carla Pauw had no idea what she wanted to do for a living: 'I had so many ideas and couldn't pick just one, but I knew I didn't want a nine-to-five job.' She ended up getting a degree in Physical Movement and a Masters in Town and Regional Planning, but it was while working part-time at Morgenhof Wine Estate's tasting room that her future started taking shape. 'I discovered I have a great nose for wine. Morgenhof was also one of the first cellars to have a female wine maker, who motivated me to study viticulture and oenology.'

Success bubbles over In 2003 Carla set out to make her own Cap Classique. 'I wanted to stay true to the genuine Champagne method of making sparkling wines, which meant an authentically brut (dry) sparkling wine. At the time, most sparkling wines in South Africa had a sweet taste.' Not having her own vineyard, Carla sourced grapes from various wine farms. She placed the harvest in baskets and got her friends to dance in them to squeeze the juice from the grapes - the celebration, which continues today, inspired her to call her label Saltaré (Latin for 'dance').

Fine wine Carla says that travelling and experiencing different cultures keeps her inspired, although it's clear she's not lacking in that department - her 2003 vintage received four out of five stars in the 2006 *John Platter Wine Guide*, while her 2005 vintage received four and a half stars in the 2008 edition. She was also handpicked to make limited-edition sparkling wines for a number of cellars from 2006 to 2008. We'll drink to that!



NOSE FOR BUSINESS

Carla Pauw has made her dream of creating her very own Cap Classique come true - and received plenty of acclaim from industry experts in the process.

CARLA'S TOP FIVE WINE DESTINATIONS

- * **Champagne, France** A sheer celebration of brioche flavours - the bubbles made here are the stuff of dreams come to life. I also love driving through the villages with their small houses, and the amazing Reims Cathedral.
- * **Loire River Valley, France** The sensuous Chenin Blanc and fairy-tale castles make for a magical journey.
- * **Priorat, Spain** The ancient small towns and earthy Syrah and Carignan blended wines give me a feeling of balance.
- * **Sicily, Italy** The epitome of the laid-back Mediterranean lifestyle. I love the friendly people, fantastic olive oil and flavoursome wines and food.
- * **Bordeaux and Sauternes, France** They have the most luxurious wines - Château Haut-Brion, Château d'Yquem, Château Suduiraut, Château Margaux and more.