



PRESS RELEASE

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NEIL PENDOCK'S WINE GALLERY DEBUTS AT TAJ CAPE TOWN

The next 12 months promise days of wine, if not roses, at the Taj Cape Town, as Sunday Times wine writer extraordinaire, Neil Pendock, opens the doors of South Africa's first 'gallery of wine' on Sunday 1 September 2013.

Showcasing either a style of wine, a region of wine production or a winemaker of a number of wines, the gallery will host eight exhibitions, each curated by an expert from the wine industry or affiliated sectors, not the least of which are Pieter Ferreira (Graham Beck), Charles Banks and Guido Francque (Restaurant Hertog Jan in Bruges).

Open Tuesday-to-Saturday, from 12 noon to 7pm, in the Lobby Lounge at the super-luxury Taj Cape Town, which is situated on the top-end of St. Georges Mall, in the heart of the city's art precinct; the *Pendock Wine Gallery @ Taj* will provide a catalogue for each exhibit, giving the visitor an opportunity to understand why each of the six showcased wines were given their moment in the sun.

The first exhibition kicks off with a 'super six' selection of 2011 vintage Pinotages chosen from this year's ABSA Top Twenty Pinotages. A month later, Pendock will showcase 'Ostrich October' – an exhibition of six Swartland wines and Karoo brandies – curated by Juan Louw jr. of Nuweland Winery, near Malmesbury.

"After many years of fruitlessly explaining how wine should be marketed, I decided to take the plunge and open a wine gallery at the toniest address in town and the closest I could get to where the first grapes were grown in South Africa – the Company's Garden," says Pendock.

Drawing a parallel between art and wine, Taj Cape Town believes that if fine art is an expression of the city's colourful populace, so should wine be seen as an expression of the expertise of the city's many winemakers, from all walks of life and backgrounds. *"What a wonderfully unusual way of appreciating what is probably one of the most coveted art forms in the Western Cape – winemaking!"* says Michael Pownall, General Manager of the Taj Cape Town. *"It would seem that the days of a mundane food and wine pairing are numbered – perhaps more should be following in Pendock's pioneering footsteps?"*

About Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces

Established in 1903, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is one of Asia's largest and finest group of hotels, comprising 95 hotels in 54 locations across India with an additional 16 international hotels in the Maldives, Malaysia, Australia, UK, USA, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Africa and the Middle East. From world-renowned landmarks to modern business hotels, idyllic beach resorts to authentic Grand Palaces, each Taj hotel offers an unrivalled fusion of warm Indian hospitality, world-class service and modern luxury.

For more than a century, The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, the iconic group flagship has set a benchmark for fine living with exquisite refinement, inventiveness and warmth. Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is part of the Tata Group, India's premier business house.

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