

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

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### **Virtual Wine Harvest Commemoration 2021: Industry transforms with four awards**

On Tuesday 2 February 2021, the South African Wine Industry commemorates the first vintage on South African soil 362 years ago on the same day in 1659, as recorded by Jan van Riebeeck in his diary.

The annual Wine Harvest Commemorative Event is hosted at Groot Constantia, South Africa's oldest wine estate for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The event will however be presented virtually this year.

This event involves three aspects, namely the Blessing of the Harvest, the commemoration of the wine industry's 362<sup>nd</sup> year of existence, and the honouring of role players. Every year a wine icon or institution receives the special 1659 Visionary Leadership Award for his or her or their contribution to the industry. Three new awards will also be introduced this year as part of the Wine Harvest Commemorative Event. Numerous people make invaluable contributions to the advancement of the wine industry. The goal with these three new awards is to broaden the pool of recognition. These awards cover the categories Diversity and Transformation; Wine Appreciation and Wine Advancement; as well as Viticulture and Wine Creation.

The virtual event takes place on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 19:00. The programme includes performances by the internationally acclaimed opera singers and sisters Pretty and Nombulelo Yende.

Financial support and partnerships for the event are from Groot Constantia Estate, *Die Burger*, Standard Bank, Vinpro and the TOPS at SPAR Wine Show. Agri-Expo is the organiser. Those interested in attending the virtual event are cordially invited and can contact Razelle Galant on 021 975 4440 or [razelle@agriexpo.co.za](mailto:razelle@agriexpo.co.za) for more information.

## **ISSUED BY**

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