



Poterion Fair Trade Communion Wine

15th Anniversary Newsletter

Amazingly it is the 15th anniversary of our first shipment from South Africa of Poterion Fair Trade Communion Wine. From a standing start in 2008 – despite Swine Flu and Covid 19 – we have now shipped over 650,000 bottles, creating a substantial benefit for the 350 workers at Stellar Organics in the Northern Cape. Thank you all for your support over the last decade and may we together go on bringing a better life to the workers and their families.

Francis Peel

The Wines

- Poterion Fair Trade Red Communion Wine:**
the red wine is made from the Ruby Cabernet grape.
- Poterion Fair Trade Pale Communion Wine:**
the pale wine is made from a blend of Chenin Blanc and Muscat grapes.

Both wines have the same sweetness as port so will last for several months once opened.

Poterion is the New Testament Greek word for cup

The Duck Team!



In keeping with Stellar's organic status, Indian Runner Ducks are used in the vineyard as a natural way to keep snails and other pests that destroy the grapes at bay. The ducks are a vital part of our organic programme. The ducklings are hand-reared until they are released into the vineyards to do what ducks do best- eat snails!



Workers' Children in the Stellar Primary School




Our Community




The Stellar workforce benefits directly from sales of fairly-traded wine and grapes. The Stellar Empowerment Trust (SET) is the organisation that manages the income derived from Fair Trade sales and serves as a forum for workers to identify their needs. This is done through the democratically elected Joint Body, the executive arm of the Trust. SET is the owner of a 26% shareholding in the winery and the workers are the Trust's beneficiaries.

Development projects designed to improve the quality of workers' lives and benefit surrounding communities are managed by the non-profit Stellar Foundation. The Foundation serves as the entity through which all social responsibility activities of the Stellar group of companies takes place. For more information:

www.stellarorganics.co.za/community




**STELLAR
 EMPOWERMENT
 TRUST**

**Job creation and
 community development
 for emerging farmers.**

STELLAR
WINERY



Organically grown grapes
Ethically produced
Fairly traded

The eco-fair brand promise from Stellar

Stellar Winery is more than just an organic wine producer. Ever since the cellar was founded in 2000, they've been refining their ideas on how to create a healthy business that is environmentally, socially and ethically responsible.

Their aim is to make a significant difference to the part of South Africa in which they live and work. That means impacting positively on the lives of the people who work at Stellar so that they in turn impact positively on their families and the communities in which they live.

Direct engagement with surrounding communities is another option. Their involvement with the public school and pre-school at Trawal has significantly raised the standards in both institutions and another centre for children and teenagers is planned at Koekenaap, close to the new farms in the Multi-Estate.

This is how Stellar do business and their eco-fair brand promise encapsulates this philosophy. The eco-fair logo promises that the wine you are buying has been:

- made from organically-grown grapes
- is ethically produced and
- is fairly traded

This promise is backed up by credible third-party certification.

- Netherlands-based Control Union Certifications audit the Stellar Winery Multi-Estate for organic production.
- Social accountability and fair trade is monitored by the Fair for Life programme of IMO (Institute for Marketecology).

Look for any of these eco-fair logos on the front labels of our products.



Fairly traded wine the best thing since sliced bread



When you purchase a fairly traded wine, you can be certain that the labourers' rights are protected and that they live and work in comfortable conditions. Why should this be of concern?

Unfortunately, there's still a lot of wine being produced in South Africa where the working conditions of the labourers are not up to standard.

Stellar Winery, near Vredendal in the Western Cape, is certified as Fair for Life. The winery sources organic grapes from farms, which fall under the Stellar Multi-Estate.

The Stellar Empowerment Trust (SET) manages financial aid and meets workers' needs. The SET is a joint body – of which all the farm workers on the Stellar Multi-Estate are beneficiaries – and owns 26% of shares in Stellar Winery. SET is owned by the workers of Stellar Winery as well as the workers from all the production units.

SET is 100% owned and run by the workers through their trustees, who are guided by the Trust Deed and their mentors.

Another part of Stellar Winery is the Stellar Foundation which was set up as an independent non-profit organisation to manage social and economic development projects on the farms that produce organic grapes and in the towns near the winery. The projects range from gardening projects to primary healthcare and covers everything in between – uplifting the community through initiating change and growth.

School Holiday Feeding Scheme

Children often go hungry during the school holidays, so Willem Rossouw, MD of Stellar Winery has kickstarted a feeding scheme overseen by the non-profit Stellar Foundation.



The scheme aims to help children at Steilhoogte School stay nourished during the holidays. Between 40 and 120 children eat at Steilhoogte daily during the holidays. Stellar has also funded the building of an additional classroom at Steilhoogte. This room will be used to teach life and practical skills to children with learning disabilities.