



The Protégé
Programme

CAPE WINEMAKERS GUILD PROTÉGÉ PROGRAMME

Empowering Future Winemakers: A Legacy of Inclusion, Innovation, and Excellence



The Protégé
Programme

Introducing the Cape Winemakers Guild Protégé Programme

The Cape Winemakers Guild Protégé Programme is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of South African winemaking and viticulture leaders.

Through structured mentorship, skills development, and industry exposure, we empower talented graduates who may otherwise face barriers to entry, creating pathways to excellence and leadership.

Our mission is to foster opportunity, inclusivity, and innovation, ensuring a more diverse and sustainable wine industry that reflects the richness of South Africa and competes on the global stage.



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Shaping the Future of South African Wine

Impact Since 2006

- Founded in 2006
 - 41 graduates since inception
 - 9 protégés currently enrolled
 - 54% (22) of graduates are now in leadership winemaking roles or have founded their own labels
 - National and international recognition for transformation excellence
 - Graduates have become Award-winning winemakers
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The Importance of the Protégé Programme

A strategic investment in the future of South African Wine

The CWG Protégé Programme is more than a mentorship initiative — it is a long-term investment in the health, diversity, and sustainability of the South African wine industry. The Protégé Programme:

Broadens the Talent Pool

Introduces skilled, diverse voices into a traditionally underrepresented sector.

Strengthens Industry Resilience

Builds a pipeline of technically trained, emotionally intelligent, and future-ready professionals.

Accelerates Transformation

Provides a tangible, high-impact model for industry transformation with proven outcomes.

Preserves and Transfers Expertise

Ensures generational knowledge-sharing from South Africa's most experienced winemakers.

Enhances Global Competitiveness

Cultivates professionals capable of elevating South African wine on the world stage.



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Unlocking Talent, Shaping Futures

Equipping emerging talent with the tools to thrive, innovate, and lead

The CWG Protégé Programme is a transformative journey that empowers young winemakers and viticulturists to realise their full potential — both professionally and personally. They leave the Programme having experienced:

Immersive, Real-World Learning

Three years of practical experience across South Africa's leading wineries with 1:1 mentorship by Industry Icons.

International Exposure

Opportunities for global harvest placements and insight into global wine markets.

Professional & Personal Development

Life skills, coaching, and leadership training beyond technical winemaking.

Industry Access & Visibility

Participation in prestigious CWG events, tastings, and networking platforms.

Unsurpassed training and experience

Protégés leave the programme equipped with technical mastery, confidence, and the connections to succeed.



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The Curriculum - Year 1

Foundation & Immersion

- Induction into a CWG host winery and winemaking operations
- Hands-on experience during harvest and cellar activities
- Participation in CWG events and Auction preparation
- Life skills training: resilience, financial literacy, and DISC profiling
- Introduction to vineyard management and winemaking processes
- First exposure to networking: buddy programme and social events





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The Curriculum - Year 2

Exposure & Expansion

- Transition to a new winery for broader winemaking experience - where they make their own wine
- Deeper involvement in CWG events, VIP tastings, and Auction support
- International Harvest Exchange in France (Burgundy, Bordeaux, Champagne)
- Presentation skills workshops and mentoring on wine submissions
- Life coaching, leadership development, and professional mastery training
- Industry networking through formal tastings and behind-the-scenes roles





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The Curriculum - Year 3

Mastery & Professional Readiness

- Final winery placement focused on leadership within cellar operations
- Development and presentation of own wine project to CWG Trustees
- Interview and CV workshops, preparation for employment post-programme
- Speaking roles and visibility at CWG public events
- Final personal coaching, winemaking assessments, and feedback reporting
- Having their own wine on Auction
- Graduation and formal transition into the industry



PAST PROTÉGÉS - WHERE THEY ARE NOW



HOWARD BOOYSEN
Self Employed
(2009)



PRAISY DLAMINI
General Manager - Her Wines
(2010)



SACHA CLAASEN
White Wine / MCC Winemaker
KWV (2012)



TAMMY CLAASEN
Winemaker - Heineken
(2012)



ELMARIE BOTES
Product Development Adam Tas -
Heineken (2013)



HEINRICH KULSEN
Self Employed
(2014)



PHILANI SHONGWE
Winemaker at Breede River
Valley Bottling (2014)



CHANDRÉ DAVEY
SA Wines RDI
(2014)

PAST PROTÉGÉS - WHERE THEY ARE NOW



THORNTON PILLAY
Own Brand - Thornleigh
Wines (2015)



WADE SANDER
Own Brand - Brunia Wines
(2015)



RICARDO CLOETE
Winemaker - DGB
(2015)



ROSE KRUGER
Winemaker - Stellekaya
(2016)



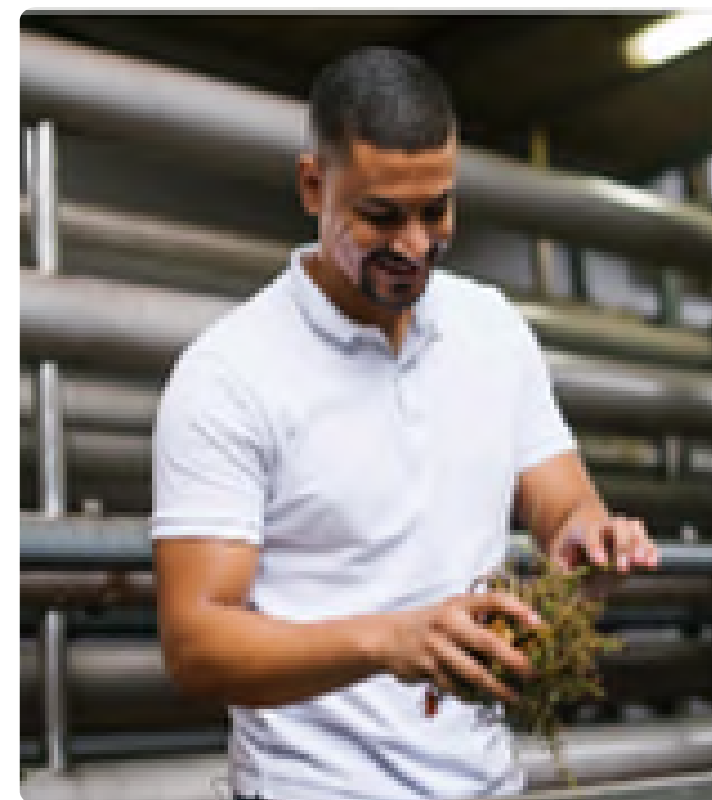
RUDGER VAN WYK
Own Brand - New Dawn &
Winemaker at Doolhof (2016)



MAHALIA MATSHETE
Own Brand - Three Quarters Wines
(2017)



KIARA SCOTT
Head Winemaker at Hazendal
(2017)



CLAYTON CHRISTIANS
Winemaker - Cape Classics
(2017)

PAST PROTÉGÉS - WHERE THEY ARE NOW



LOGAN JOOSTE
(Viticulture) VINPRO
(2017)



SYDNEY MELLO
Freelance Winemaker
(2018)



MARYNA HUYSAMEN
Winemaker Peth Wetz - Germany
(2018)



BANELE VAKELE
Own Label - Tembela Wines
(2018)



ELOUISE KOTZE
Winemaker at Babich Wines -
New Zealand
(2019)



GYNORE HENDRIKS
Winemaker of Great Heart Wines
(2019)



ANNE MATTHEE
(Viticulture) Researcher at
ExperiCo. (2019)



MORGAN STEYN
Winemaker - De Grendel
(2019)

PAST PROTÉGÉS - WHERE THEY ARE NOW



VICTORIA BROWN
Emigrated to Australia
(2021)



LUCRETIA AFRICA
Assistant Winemaker at Adam Tas
- Heineken (2021)



ROGER CLOETE
Assistant RTD Winemaker at
Heineken (2021)



CANDICE NASSEN
Assistant Winemaker at Moya
Meaker Wines (2021)



MICHAEL TOPKIN
Assistant Winemaker at Adam Tas
- Heineken
(2021)



KELSEY SHUNGKING
Winemaker at Rickety Bridge
(2021)



ANIQUE CERONIO
Cellar Master at Weingut Doctor
Wunderer - Austria (2022)



KYLE DAVIDS
Assistant Winemaker -
Babylonstoren
(2022)

PAST PROTÉGÉS - WHERE THEY ARE NOW



THABILE CELE
Assistant Winemaker -
Steenberg (2022)



GINA VIOLA
(Viticulture) Viticulturist at
De Toren (2022)



KAYLIN WILLSCOTT
Head Winemaker of Inzuzo
Wines & Assistant Winemaker at
Journey's End (2023)



TERRY ANN KLINK
Assistant Winemaker at
Longridge Wines (2023)



SHANICE DU PREEZ
Assistant Winemaker at
Brookdale Estate (2024)



MOSIMA MABELEBELE
Winemaker at Le Grand Domaine
Winery (20214)



THOLAKELE BEKWAYO
Overseas winemaking
experience



LINDELA PANASO MSOMI
Overseas winemaking
experience



KARABELO MOSOLENG
Harvest at Hamilton Russell
with Emul Ross
CWG Member

2026 Protégés - First Year Protégés



MARCHÉ HENDRIKS
Apprenticeship at
Warwick Wine Estate with
JD Pretorius
(CWG Member)



RENEILWE SENOSHA
Apprenticeship at
Neil Ellis Wines with
Warren Ellis
(CWG Member)

2026 Protégés - Second Year Protégés



ENGELA UITHALER
Apprenticeship at
Storm Wines with
Hannes Storm
(CWG Member)



REECE JULIES
Apprenticeship at
De Grendel with
Charles Hopkins
(CWG Member)



MOTSHABI ALICE TSOLO
Apprenticeship at
Badenhorst Wines with
Adi Badenhorst
(CWG Member)

2026 Protégés - Final Year Protégés



NOMPUMELELO MOSAKA
Apprenticeship at
Graham Beck Wines with
Pieter Ferreira
(CWG Member)



LULO BULO
Apprenticeship at
Mullineux Wines with
Andrea Mullineux
(CWG Member)



PELOKAZI NOMFEMBE
Apprenticeship at
Le Riche Wines with
Christo le Riche
(CWG Member)



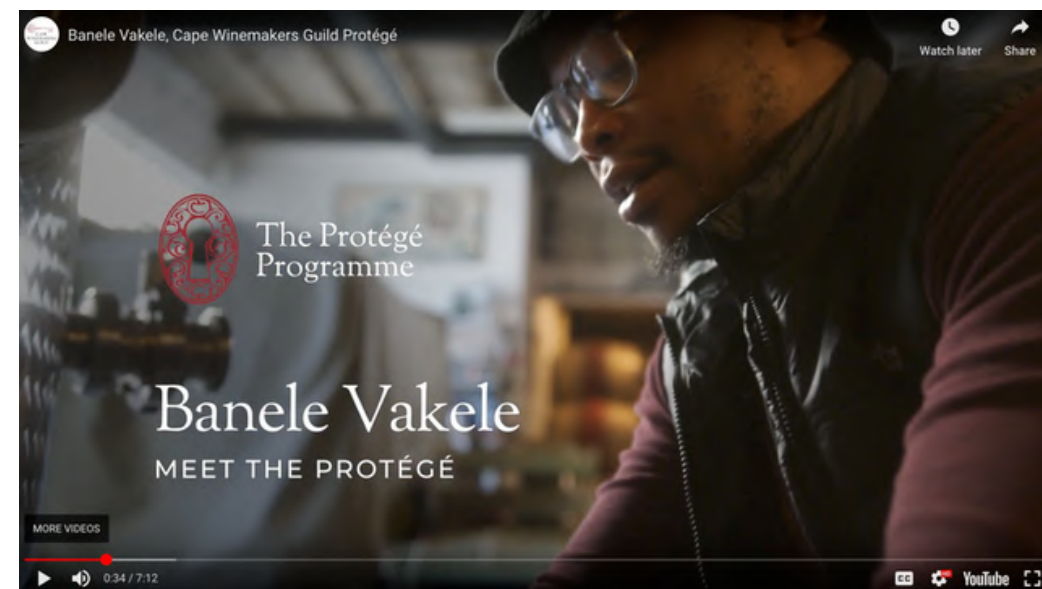
SIZEKA MPUPU
Apprenticeship at
Savage Wines with
Duncan Savage
(CWG Member)

The Cape Winemakers Guild Protégé Programme

Just a few of our success stories

Banele Vakele

([click HERE](#) to watch video).



Protégé: 2016 - 2018
Now: Own Brand - Tembela Wines

Praisyl Dlamini

([click HERE](#) to watch video)



Protégé: 2008 - 2010
Now: Head Winemaker at Adama Wines
& General Manager at HER Wines
Received the “Growing Inclusivity Award” at the
2025 Wine Harvest Commemorative Event.

Kiara Scott Farmer

([click HERE](#) to watch video).



Protégé: 2015 - 2017
Now: Head Winemaker at Hazendal Wine Estate
2024 Diners Club Winemaker of the Year



The Protégé
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The Buddy Project

Inspiring Tomorrow's Winemakers Through Peer Connection and Mentorship

Launched in 2020, the Buddy Project extends the reach and impact of the CWG Protégé Programme by connecting current and past protégés with winemaking and viticulture students from Stellenbosch University and Elsenburg College.

This initiative creates a supportive, peer-led network that inspires young talent from historically disadvantaged backgrounds to remain engaged, motivated, and committed to a future in wine.

Through quarterly gatherings hosted at CWG member wineries — including cellar tours, vineyard walks, tastings, and shared meals — the project offers students firsthand insight into the industry, mentorship from those walking the path ahead of them, and a tangible introduction to the world of South African fine wine.





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Thank You

Kindest regards,
Magda Vorster
CWG Protege Programme Facilitator

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