TOP 10 SOUTH AFRICAN WINEMAKERS TO WATCH

1st November, 2012 by Lucy Shaw

4: Matthew Day, Klein Constantia

Fresh faced 27-year-old Matthew Day has big shoes to fill, having been made winemaker at Klein Constantia in the Constantia Valley, makers of Napoleon's favourite sweet wine, Vin de Constance, which appears in Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility, Charles Dickens' unfinished novel The Mystery of Edwin Drood, and Baudelaire's poem Les Fleurs du Mal.

Day grew up in Johannesburg, but an interest in winemaking saw him relocate to the Cape to pursue his passion. After graduating from Stellenbosch University with a degree in viticulture and oenology, he flew the nest to work harvests at Château Bellefont Belcier and Château Trianon in St Emilion, Elderton Estate in the Barossa Valley and Dancing Hares Estate in the Napa Valley, before returning home to work at Meerlust.

Matt joined Klein Constantia, which recently merged with Anwilka, owned by Hubert de Bouard, co-owner of Château Angélus, and former Cos d'Estournel owner Bruno Prats, as assistant winemaker in 2008, becoming winemaker in 2010. Day is keen to build on Vin de Constance's reputation rather than take the wine in a radical direction. He has started maturing it in acacia barrels, which is helping to accentuate the floral and exotic fruit characteristics of the wine.