

Make taste adventures in wine department part of resolutions

A NEW year means new beginnings, new adventures and resolutions to either give things up or take on new challenges. How about trying something new in the wine department while you're about it?

Interesting new wines and fresh vintages happily cross the Vine Time desk regularly, so here are some suggestions of wines to maybe take you off the tried-and-tested path and explore some new horizons.

An interesting partner for laid-back brunches, summer salads and light dishes with a touch of curry, is De Krans Moscato Perlé (around R49).

Low in alcohol and packed with melon-pineapple tropical vibes and a touch of muskiness, it's lightly bubbly and naturally sweet – a good bet for those who don't like their white wine

A VINE TIME



SAM VENTER

super-dry and acidic. Another super partner for curries, Uitkyk Chenin Blanc 2013 (R70 cellar door) is a great illustration of why Chenin is becoming one of the stand-out signatures of South African winemaking.

It's rich, deep and full-bodied – don't overchill it because you'll lose the intensity of its honeyed, nutty, apple flavours. The wine isn't overwooded, just some hints of caramel and burnt toffee balanced with a touch of typical Chenin pineapple zestiness.

Jason's Hill Private Cellar, at the foot of the Slangehoek mountains in the Boland, was a new name to me, but definitely one to explore further.

Their flagship wine is a fresh and fruity Sauvignon Blanc with well-balanced acidity giving it just enough zing and

some grassy-asparagus notes. The Chardonnay is subtly wooded with limey-fruit. Both are pleasant and easy-drinking, and well-priced at R45 and R40 from the cellar.

Anthonij Rupert Cape of Good Hope Altima is a treat for the serious Sauvignon Blanc lover. Available only from the cellar, at R105, it's layered and complex, crisp and zesty with green notes of figs and asparagus underpinned with flinty minerality. Try it with seafood, sushi or anything with chilli-lime-ginger.

Pink wines are great summer sippers. For those who hesitate to venture too far from Haute Cabriere's gentle and popular Tranquille, make a New Year's resolution to try out the Krone Chardonnay Pinot Noir, similarly priced at around R60.

The first wine to be bottled with a new foil-wrapped "screw-cork" that supposedly brings back the romance of "popping the cork" and adds a



FRUITY TASTE: Jason's Hill Private Cellar boasts a fresh and fruity sauvignon blanc as its flagship wine

"premium" feel to the bottle, it's fragrantly fresh and fruity, with the Chardonnay contributing a smooth mouthfeel and elegance, just a hint of

creamy butteriness balanced with the fresh red berries from the pinot noir. A worthy challenger to Tranquille's market dominance.