



GRANDE PROVENCE

—1694—

Heritage Wine Estate

FRANSCHHOEK · SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS RELEASE

Cape Town 15 April 2009

ROYAL GALA DINNER AT GRANDE PROVENCE

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellowship

Tuesday 14 April 2009, Grande Provence Heritage Wine Estate, Franschhoek once again hosted His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex and Alex van Heeren, trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association (IAA).

A dinner for 54 invited guests was held in support of the 21-2-21 initiative an inspiring fundraising idea that will increase the influence of the 'International Award for Young People' worldwide and the resources to be made available to the regional offices globally. The evening started with pre-dinner drinks at The Jonkershuis, followed by a formal dinner in The Gallery with entertainment in the form of a concert featuring a children's choir and opera soloist Zanne Stapelberg. Executive Chef of The Restaurant, Jacques de Jager and his team created cuisine reflecting finest South African contemporary influences. At the conclusion of the evening HRH The Earl of Wessex retired to The Owner's Cottage at Grande Provence Estate where he spent the night, departing the following morning.

2008 marked the 21st anniversary of the World Fellowship and this year will be the 21st anniversary of the Association. To commemorate these two momentous anniversaries 21 prestigious events are being staged around the world, known as the 21-2-21 events series. Grande Provence was chosen as the flagship venue for the series in South Africa and hosted the 14th event.

Known in South Africa as 'The President's Award', under the Patronage of Nelson Mandela, the work of the Award in the prisons of South Africa has already delivered compelling results. These are reflected in a drastic reduction of repeat offending amongst Award participants. During his stay in South Africa HRH The Earl of Wessex witnessed first hand the benefits the Award brings to young offenders, when he met with Award participants at Drakenstein Prison.

A visit to Macassar High School, a township school in an area of high unemployment, also gave HRH The Earl of Wessex further insight into how the Award is enabling young people to learn life-skills vital to take advantage of limited opportunities. He was also pleased to present a number of Gold Awards to those who had recently achieved the highest level of the Programme.

The International Award is a non-competitive youth development programme, aimed at challenging young people everywhere to realise their potential and their place in society. It is the primary charity of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, and the six million young people who have participated in the Award worldwide are the measure its success.

www.grandeprovence.co.za

This press release has been distributed on behalf of our client, Grande Provence Heritage Wine Estate.

Further information:

High resolution photos are available upon request.

About The Duke of **Edinburgh's Award International Association**

There are currently over 130,000 Award participants in the African region, all undertaking a four-part programme of Physical Recreation, Skills Development, Community Service, and the completion of an Adventurous Journey. The International Award is a self-development programme available to all 14 to 25 year olds which transcends all geographical and cultural boundaries. The concept is designed to support young people to develop into responsible, active citizens who will positively contribute towards society.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association or International Award Association (IAA) was formed in 1988 following the successful worldwide expansion of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award UK programme launched in 1956 by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The Award now operates in over 125 countries, and has given over 6 million participants the chance to develop essential life and work skills, irrespective of background or circumstance.

More information on the International Award can be found at www.intaward.org

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