7 June 2023

**POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GRAPE AND WINE RESEACH INSTITUTE (SAGWRI) FOR 2024**

The following project is available for a MSc-level study from 2024, for a suitable student with an Oenology, Winebiotechnology or Food Science background. With an Oenology background as preference.

Note: For this project it is required that the student receive an NRF or externally funded bursary.

**Project Title: Sensorial characterisation of South African Shiraz: investigating regional and style characteristics and differences**

**Project description:**

South African Shiraz wines play an important role on both the local and export markets. It is the most planted red grape cultivar in the Swartland region and was responsible for the second largest volume of wine exported as single cultivar, both as packaged and bulk wine in 2020.

Knowledge about the sensory characteristics related to regional terroir as well as the identification of style categories of South African Shiraz could help industry professionals tailor brands for specific market segments by incorporating this knowledge during product development, production and marketing.

The aim of this study will be to define the sensory space of South African Shiraz.

The specific objectives of this project will be to:

1. Determine the sensory characteristics of a large number of Shiraz wines using wine industry panels.
2. Identify different Shiraz styles within the sensory space.
3. Investigate sensory characteristics of wines in terms of region.

The data generated during this study will contribute to the creation of a South African Shiraz wheel which could give rise to individual wheels for certain wine regions given that differences in sensory characteristics related to region arise.

**Contact person for the project: Dr Jeanne Brand or prof Wessel du Toit**

**Please send a CV, as well as a cover letter to Dr Jeanne Brand to indicate your interest in this opportunity.**

**General contacts for SAGWRI:**

Prof MA Vivier: Interim Director of SAGWRI

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