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The very nature of the South African wine-making industry lends itself to a more boutique approach. Many wineries are family-owned, and have been so for generations.



In other New World countries, like say Australia, wineries are known to be much bigger and often have a factory feel. Compared to here at home, where our wine estates still retain all the romance of the Old World.

Our panel recently tasted an excellent boutique wine by Peter Falke Wines in Stellenbosch (in a contemporary yet still charming setting). Colin Collard weighs in.

“The word ‘boutique’ is often used to indicate an independent designer or establishment in the fashion and hotel industry,” says Colin. “So, what are the similarities with boutique wineries and why should it make a difference?”

“Well, for starters boutique wineries are largely privately owned and adopt a low production-high quality approach. The owners are passionate about wine and are actively involved in the day to day running of the farm.

Low volume and attention to detail makes all the difference – and you can taste it. The Peter Falke Cabernet 2009 is a perfect example of how this approach can pay off. It’s a delicious wine that finished 2nd out of 20 Cabernets in a recent panel tasting.”

This is what the Panel had to say: Garnet-tinged ruby; shy-ish with hints of dusty, dark-berried fruits and a touch of earthiness. Full-bodied and properly dry, fruit well disciplined by oak and tannins give good muscular feel. Enjoy with: Thick grilled rump or sirloin with English mustard, or roast beef wing rib, or try this [fillet roasted in red wine](#) recipe.
Enjoy by: End of 2014.

What are your favourite boutique wines? Please let us know in the comments!