

# ASLINA BY NTSIKI BIYELA

SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST BLACK FEMALE  
WINEMAKER TAKES FLIGHT



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Aslina is a wine company owned by Ntsiki Biyela, the first black woman winemaker in South Africa. Aslina is the name of her late grandmother who was and is her inspiration. Ntsiki Biyela grew up under her grandmother's guidance and care.

After 13 years of being a winemaker and ambassador of Stellekaya wines, Ntsiki Biyela continued her journey of inspiration by starting her own brand. This followed the collaboration she has been doing with a Californian winemaker which was a brain child of Mika Bulmash from Wine for the World. Ntsiki has consulted in France, making wine under Wine makers Collection in Bordeaux.

She grew up in Mahlabathini, a rural village in Kwazulu Natal, and matriculated from high

school in 1996. Having spent a year as a domestic worker, she was awarded a scholarship to study winemaking in 1999. She graduated in 2003 with a BSc in Agriculture (Viticulture and Oenology) at Stellenbosch University and joined Stellekaya the following year. Ntsiki was crowned Woman Winemaker of the Year in 2009 and has been the finalist for two consecutive years for The Most Influential Women in Business and Government.

She has received extensive media coverage throughout the world over the course of her career, including features on CNN, the front page of the New York Times, CNBC, SABC, Good Morning America, and more.

Finally, she sits on the board of directors for the Pinotage Youth Development Academy, which provides technical training and personal development for young South Africans in the Cape Winelands, preparing them for work in the wine industry. The programme offers them the unique opportunity to emulate her own considerable success.



# SUO

The story of Ntsiki Biyela spreading her wings begins with the collaborative wine series from Wine for the World. In 2012, Wine for the World Founder Mika Bulmash set out to showcase promising winemaking talent from up-and-coming wine regions. She wanted to make the wine world smaller, bring people together, and create unique opportunities. The result was the creation of a collaborative wine brand that unites talented winemakers from the US and abroad, with the aim to inspire both winemakers and wine lovers to discover something new.

The first collaboration was between two powerhouse women winemakers: Ntsiki Biyela, an extraordinarily talented winemaker at Stellekaya Wines who was named Woman Winemaker of the Year in 2009, and Helen Keplinger, an esteemed and cult winemaker from Napa Valley, who was named Food & Wine Magazine Winemaker of the Year in 2012. The wines sold out.

Building on its success, Red Collection No. 2 was launched in September 2016, and given the name "Suo", meaning "to stitch" or "to unite" in Latin. The winemakers created a sultry, beautiful Bordeaux blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Malbec, which received 90 points from Wine Spectator.

Now, the collaborative project has reached a meaningful milestone. With the success and support of Suo, Ntsiki Biyela has launched her own brand, Aslina Wines. Wine for the World is proud to have played a pivotal role in this journey.

## RED COLLECTION NO. 2, 2013



### ORIGIN

Stellenbosch, South Africa

### VARIETAL

Cabernet Sauvignon 53%, Merlot 22%, Cabernet Franc 20%, Malbec 5%

### TECHNICAL

Alc 14.5%, R/Sugar 3.8g/l, TA 6.2 g/l

### AGEING

5 to 8 years from vintage.

### TASTING NOTES

Full bodied with layers of fruits, plummy characters and hints of cedar. Round on the palate with a silky finish. Soft, ripe tannins, good balance of wood, acid and fruit giving this wine a long, lingering finish.

### FOOD

Best enjoyed with juicy lamb, steak or a hearty vegetable dish.

### PRODUCTION

150 cases of 12



KEY WINE REGIONS IN THE WESTERN CAPE



## SAUVIGNON BLANC 2015



- ORIGIN**  
Stellenbosch, South Africa
- VARIETAL**  
100% Sauvignon Blanc
- TECHNICAL**  
Alc 14.5%, R/Sugar 3.2 g/l,  
TA 5.7 g/l, pH 3.3
- PRODUCTION**  
125 cases of 12

### TASTING NOTES

A complex Sauvignon Blanc with bright fruit, lots of citrus characters, lemon zest, beautiful complexity, and depth. Extended time on the lees gives this wine a unique, lingering, silky finish.

### AGEING

A wine best enjoyed 2 to 4 years from vintage.

## CHARDONNAY 2016



- ORIGIN**  
Coastal Region, South Africa
- VARIETAL**  
100% Chardonnay
- TECHNICAL**  
Alc 14.5%, R/Sugar 2.2 g/l,  
TA 5.9 g/l, pH 3.3
- PRODUCTION**  
200 cases of 12

### TASTING NOTES

A complex, fruity Chardonnay that is creamy and full. Partial woodaging gives this wine a lovely subtlety, and shows the beautiful tropical fruit and lime characters. Good acidity balances the fruit and wood.

### AGEING

A wine best enjoyed 3 to 5 years from vintage.

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2014



- ORIGIN**  
Stellenbosch, South Africa
- VARIETAL**  
87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Petit Verdot
- TECHNICAL**  
Alc 14.5%, R/Sugar 2.5 g/l,  
TA 5.6 g/l, pH 3.5
- PRODUCTION**  
350 cases of 12

### TASTING NOTES

A full bodied wine with hints of minty characters, cigar box and lots of dark fruits. Bold palate with chewy tannins. A good balance of wood, acidity and fruit gives this wine good cellaring potential.

### AGEING

A wine best enjoyed 6 years from vintage.

## UMSASANE 2015



- ORIGIN**  
Western Cape, South Africa
- VARIETAL**  
62% Cabernet Sauvignon,  
29% Cabernet Franc, 9% Petit Verdot
- TECHNICAL**  
Alc 13.5%, R/Sugar 3.4 g/l,  
TA 5.6 g/l, pH 3.6
- PRODUCTION**  
350 cases of 12

### TASTING NOTES

A full-bodied wine with layers of fruits and plummy characters. Good bold structure, tight ripe tannins, and a good balance of wood, acidity and fruit gives this wine a long, lingering finish. Best enjoyed with juicy lamb or steak.

### AGEING

A wine best enjoyed 5 to 8 years from vintage.

Wine for the World is a New York-based wine import company that focuses on artisanal wines from unconventional wine regions. We make our selections based on quality, responsible social and environmental business practices, limited production levels and micro-market share in the US.



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