



## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED DURING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25 NOVEMBER 2025**

### **Dear Members**

It is my privilege to present another year of SASEV activities on behalf of the SASEV Board. This report is for the period July 2024 to June 2025.

#### **1. Membership**

There are currently 288 SASEV members, two of which are international (one from Italy, the other from the United States of America). This year SASEV attracted 6 new members and there are currently 26 active honorary members and 2 honorary presidents, namely Mr Jan Booysen and Dr Ilse Trautmann.

#### **2. Finances**

SASEV is mainly dependent on membership fees, journal page fees (SAJEV), as well as the successful hosting of scientific knowledge transfer conferences, industry-relevant workshops, and sponsorships for its income. The organisation has once again managed to maintain a stable financial position over the past year, as reflected in the financial statements, although the year ended with a loss. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our members and especially our sponsors for their continued support during the past year, which has been financially challenging for many. We truly appreciate every contribution received.

Many thanks to our treasurer for the past term, Andries Daniels as well as Mina Lourens (Financial Administrative Officer) for administering the Association's funds. A special word of thanks to Mina Lourens for her dedication and efforts in the way she handled the finances of the Association.

#### **3. SASEV Activities**

##### **3.1 MLF Workshop in partnership with Lallemand 9 October 2024, Klein Joostenberg**

A workshop was presented that was aimed at winemakers to ensure the latest information related to MLF was presented. This included four presentations by two international and one local expert, as well as two wine tastings to showcase the impact of MLF on wine aroma and the potential faults associated with spontaneous MLF. The workshop was ended with Q&A session. The workshop had 46 attendees. Lallemand's contribution both financially and bringing out the international experts is acknowledged.

The programme for the day:

**Wine Quality Impact – The Past, Present and Future Developments of Malolactic Fermentation**

**WEDNESDAY 09 OCTOBER 2024**

9:30 – 9:50	Registration	
9:50 – 10:00	Welcoming	<b>Piet Loubser</b>
10:00 – 10:30	The malolactic journey. History, innovation and future developments -	
		<b>Sibylle Krieger-Weber</b>
10:30 – 11:00	Yeast and Bacteria interactions	<b>Sibylle Krieger-Weber</b>
11:00 – 11:30	Bacteria selection and inoculation timing	<b>Maret du Toit</b>
11:30 – 12:00	Sensory contribution: impact of different bacteria strains and inoculation times	<b>Eveline Bartowsky</b>
12:00 – 12:45	Light finger lunch / Set up for tasting	
12:45 – 13:15	MLF tasting and examples of MLF impact	<b>Sibylle Krieger-Weber</b>
13:15 – 14:15	Uncontrolled malolactic fermentations / negative impact and spoilage /tasting and sniffing	
14:15 – 14:30	Conclusion: What's new for Lallemend for 2025	<b>Piet Loubser</b>

### **3.2 South African Wine Laboratory Association**

This subgroup (SAWLA) that functions under the banner of SASEV, held 2 workshops this year and an Annual Meeting. In total 161 people attended the events. The work group's main goal is to ensure standardised methods of wine analysis for industry. The following exhibitors were part of the workshops and their contributions are greatly appreciated: Anton Paar, Glasschem, Microsep, R-Biopharm Whitehead Scientific & Wynland Chemicals. Fanie Kamfer and the committee are thanked for steering SAWLA into the future context of the wine industry.

SAWLA laboratory of the year 2024:

1. Robertson Winery
2. Breede River Valley Bottling (BBK)
3. Wine Analytical Services (Spier)


### 3.3 Table Grape Information Days

Following the 10<sup>th</sup> International Table Grape Symposium, which was hosted in 2023, the table grape information days were relaunched and rebranded as a partnership between SATI and SASEV called Table Talk: Grape Conversations.


The events were held as follows:

- 28 July 2024 in Groblersdal (Wildwood Estate)
- 30 July 2024 in Kakamas (Lake Grappa)
- 1 August 2024 in Paarl (Ashanti)

The events were well attended with 80, 120 and 250 registered delegates in Groblersdal, Kakamas and Paarl, respectively. The programme for the events is provided below:



PRESENTED BY











Creating a platform to explore topics impacting the table grape industry

## STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION DAYS 2024

The 2024 programme focuses on South Africa's positioning in key export markets and sustainability related topics that impact the table grape industry.

Topic	Speaker
1 Registration	
2 Welcome	Mecia Petersen SATI
3 Keynote Address A macro-economic perspective: The South African table grape industry and key factors impacting its exports	Bheki Mahlobo Economist, Frans Cronje Private Clients
4 SA retailer's perspective on fresh produce in key export markets and sustainability related matters applicable on farm	Kobus Pienaar Technical Manager Food Security, Woolworths
5 A predictive model to optimise logistics operations for the South African table grape industry	Carsten Schubert & Pieter de Wet Transnova Africa and Jacques Ferreira SATI
Facilitated Q&A	
Tea break	
6 Phasing out of agri remedies: Implications, mitigation strategies and the way forward for the South African table grape industry	Rod Bell CEO, CropLife
7 Using genetics to mitigate berry cracking: What do we know so far?	Dr Justin Lashbrooke Geneticist, Stellenbosch University
8 Optimising postharvest packaging to prolong storage and maintain quality of table grapes	Anné Matthee Portfolio Manager, Grape, ExperiCo
9 PAARL ONLY: BTPA feedback: Impact of shoot quality on grape quality	Eunice Avenant SAGWRI, SU
Networking lunch / dinner	

Bheki Mahlobo
Kobus Pienaar
Carsten Schubert
Pieter de Wet
Rod Bell
Justin Lashbrooke
Anné Matthee
Eunice Avenant

#### 4. **South African Journal for Enology & Viticulture (SAJEV)**

SAJEV's impact factor decreased in 2025 to 1.0. Volume 45, first edition, was the last hard copy of SAJEV. Articles accepted for the second edition of volume 45, and thereafter, are published online only, according to the decision taken at the Annual General Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2024.

First edition of volume 45: 5 articles

Second edition of volume 45: 8 articles

There are 22 editorial committee members of which 2 are international. SAJEV is published as open access on the Open Journal System (OJS), hosted by Stellenbosch University.

Appreciation is extended to Leon Dicks, the editor, as well as the assistant editors for their dedication and time in ensuring constant improvement of the journal. The sponsorship of South Africa Wine and South African Table Grape Industry is appreciated to contribute to the sustainability of the journal.

#### 5. **SASEV Awards**

##### 5.1 **Medal of Honor & Honorary Membership**

None

##### 5.2 **Lallemand SA & SASEV – Prize for the Best Students in Viticulture and Oenology (SU) and Cellar Technology (Elsenburg)**

SASEV and Lallemand SA collaborate to reward the best 2024 final year student in Viticulture and Oenology at Stellenbosch University and the best 2024 final year student in Cellar Technology at the Cape Institute for Agricultural Training (Elsenburg) for their hard work. This prize has been sponsored by Lallemand SA for the past 25 years. Congratulations to Tara Kruger from Stellenbosch University and De Villiers Coetzee from Elsenburg.

##### 5.3 **SAJEV Prize**

None

##### 5.4 **Conference Prize**

None

##### 5.5 **Table and Raisin Grape fund award**

R50 000.00 was approved to support two bursary contributions for two Master students at Stellenbosch University.

#### 6. **Website, marketing, association and sponsorship**

##### 6.1 **Social media and marketing**

SASEV continues to use traditional methods, such as newspapers and emails, to communicate and share information with members, but the Society is switching to social and web media for future communications. The SASEV website is one of the key tools for information sharing with members. As a reminder the URL is [www.sasev.org](http://www.sasev.org). Additionally, Facebook (@SASEV.SAWWV), Instagram (SASEV\_platform), and most prominently, LinkedIn (SASEV SA) have been used to actively promote events over the past year.

## 7. Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the following people:

- The active SASEV members who continue to support the organisation.
- Mina Lourens for your unwavering dedication and commitment to SASEV.
- Sophia Mostert for assisting with SASEV activities as administrator from 2024/2025.
- The SASEV Board: Maret du Toit (President), Elleunorah Allsopp (Vice President), Andries Daniels (Treasurer), Neil Jolly (Secretary), Tarryn Wettergreen, Jeanne Brand, Heinrich du Plessis, Fanie Kamfer and Leon Dicks (SAJEV Editor).
- All sponsors that have supported events.
- All media that have attended and reported on SASEV activities.

SASEV has established itself as the preferred vehicle of ***scientific knowledge transfer*** in the grape and wine science spaces – may the Board and the members continue to support and expand the goals of the organisation to the benefit of the South African wine-, table- and raisin grape and wine industries.



**Maret du Toit**  
**President**  
**South African Society for Enology and Viticulture**