



*Veronafiere olive oil contest concluded in Cape Town*

## **SOL D'ORO MEDALS FOR ARGENTINA, CHILE AND URUGUAY SOUTH AFRICA TAKES FIVE SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALS**

**Although taking gold medals in all three categories envisaged, South American countries left places of honour to South Africa: the host nation of this year's most important competition dedicated to extra virgin olive oils took 5 out of 9 of these medals and 9 out of 12 Special Mentions**

**Cape Town, South Africa - 11 September 2015.** The gold medals for extra virgin olive oils at the Sol d'Oro Southern Hemisphere contest held this year in South Africa went to Chile in the delicate category, Argentina in the medium category and Uruguay in the intense section.

Behind them, second and third places saw South African olive oil producers win as many as 5 out of 9 medals: a bronze medal in the delicate category, a silver and bronze medal in the medium category and a silver and bronze in the intense section. To complete South Africa's fine result, Special Mentions were awarded to three delicate and six medium olive oils.

The overall medal table saw Chile also claim a silver medal and two Special Mentions in the delicate category and a special mention in the intense section.

The international judges had compliments for the quality achieved by all producers taking part in the competition, especially since they had to respond to a difficult year following prolonged drought.

These impressive results crown the second edition of the Sol d'Oro Southern Hemisphere competition. This event was held for the first time in 2014 after splitting Sol d'Oro in two in order to give extra virgin olive oils made south of the Equator - out of season compared to traditional producer countries in the northern hemisphere - an opportunity to be assessed in all their optimal freshness.

As a travelling competition taking in production countries, Sol d'Oro Southern Hemisphere was organised by Veronafiere thanks also to the cooperation of the South African Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture, Western Cape Province and Wesgro, the official agency promoting tourism, trade and investments in Cape Town and the Western Cape area.

The gala dinner during which the winners were announced took place yesterday evening at Casa Labia in Cape Town. It was attended by the Prime Minister of Western Cape Province, Helen Zille, the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture of Western Cape, Alan Winde, the Chief Executive Officer of Wesgro, Tim Harris, and the Italian Consul in Cape Town, Alfonso Tagliaferri, the **Deputy President of Veronafiere, Damiano Berzacola**, who recalled that "*Veronafiere conceived Sol d'Oro as an occasion for comparisons and improvements for olive oil made around the world, where producers always look to Italy as an example of technological and manufacturing quality*".

"I am sure," Berzacola concluded, "*that this edition of Sol d'Oro Southern Hemisphere has been a memorable occasion for meetings and sharing knowledge which will help strengthen and renew the excellent partnership relations existing between the Republic of South Africa and Italy, between local wine and olive oil producers and Veronafiere, Sol&Agrifood and Vinitaly.*"

"Veronafiery ," said **Helen Zille**, Prime Minister of Western Cape Province, "has clearly shown its confidence in the development of our olive oil and wine producers by giving them help and assistance to improve even to the point of surpassing produce from northern hemisphere countries. Veronafiery," she concluded, "has significantly encouraged the promotion of agro-food produce, a feature which is perfectly in line with the Western Cape's own policies and projects."

### List of Winners and Special Mentions by category

#### Delicate fruit category

- 1 Terramater S.A., Petralia, Chile
- 2 Agricola Pobena S.A., Alonso olive oil ultra premium Frantoio, Chile
- 3 Rio Largo Olive Estate, Rio Largo, South Africa

#### Special Mentions

Agr. Y For. Don Rafael Lida, 8 Olivos Blend, Chile  
Oakhurst Olives, Oakhurst Delicate, South Africa  
Empresas Carozzi S.A., Carozzi Intense, Chile  
Willow Creek Olive Estate, Willow Creek Director's Reserve, South Africa  
Babylonstoren, Babylonstoren, South Africa

#### Medium fruit category

- 1 Miditerra S.A., Grand Miditerra, Argentina
- 2 Baleia Wines, Baleia Olives & Oil, South Africa
- 3 Adamskloof, Adamskloof, South Africa

#### Special Mentions

Morgenster, Morgenster Extra Virgin Olive Oil, South Africa  
Porterville Olives (Pty) Ltd, Andante Intenso, South Africa  
Tokara, Tokara Premium, South Africa  
Chaloner SACC, Chaloner Mountain Extra Virgin Olive Oil, South Africa  
Olivares de Quepu SA, 1492 Picual, Chile  
Homegrown Farms Cc, Prince Albert EVOO - Karoo Blend, South Africa  
P.C. Coetsee t/a Marbrin Farms, Marbrin Olive Growers Directors Reserve, South Africa

#### Intense fruit category

- 1 Agroland SA, Colina de Garzón Trivarietal, Uruguay
- 2 Wildekrans, Wildekrans Keerweer Extra Virgin Olive Oil, South Africa
- 3 Gabriëlskloof, Gabriëlskloof, South Africa

**Key: Company, name of product label, country of origin.**

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