

Prestigious award for May de Lencquesaing

Honouring a career spanning over 40 years, May de Lencquesaing, grande dame of Glenelly Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's International Wine Challenge (IWC).

The IWC Lifetime Achievement Award honours a person who has shown dedication and commitment to the wine industry and has made a significant difference to the global wine industry. Now in its 34th year, the IWC is widely regarded as one of the world's finest and most meticulously judged wine competitions.

May de Lencquesaing is a member of one of Bordeaux's oldest wine families, the Mialhe, whose place in the wine industry dates back to the end of the



May de Lencquesaing with IWC co-chairperson Tim Atkin MW and IWC cofounder Charles Metcalfe.

18th century. Owners of the famous Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande, they also owned or partly owned several other great Bordeaux châteaux, including Siran, Ducru-Beaucaillou and Palmer.

Having spent many years travelling the globe with her late husband General Hervé de Lencquesaing, May took the helm of the family business in 1978. After a hugely successful tenure as head of Pichon Lalande, where she became affectionately known as La Generale, she sold the château to Champagne Louis Roederer in 2007 to concentrate on her new wine estate in South Africa.

May de Lencquesaing, always a pioneer, had visited South Africa several times and had recognised the country's potential to grow world-class wines. With this belief, she started a new adventure on South African soil when she bought Glenelly Estate on the lower slopes of the Simonsberg Mountain in Stellenbosch in 2003 at the age of 78. She replanted the former fruit farm with pristine vineyards, built a state-of-the-art winery, tasting centre, museum for her precious glass collection and school for the children on the farm, and began producing a highly acclaimed range of wines.

Today, 14 years later, alongside her two grandsons Nicolas Bureau and Arthur de Lencquesaing (the eighth generation of vintners and wine producers), they are reshaping Glenelly into one of South Africa's pre-eminent estates, intrinsically linking themselves to South Africa's success story.

After closing to the public for a year for extensive renovations, Glenelly reopened at the end of 2016 as a world-class winelands destination, complete with a hospitable bistro, tasting room with spectacular views, stylish new presentation of May's unique glass collection and a refreshed wine brand that better conveys the three key elements that define the estate's award-winning wines: power, elegance and balance.