



### *Our expert*

**RICHARD KEYS** is a chef by experience, while his wife, Gillian, is a City and Guilds-trained chef. They own two Ocean Basket franchises in Cape Town and are partners in Hokey Poke, an eatery that specialises in poke, the latest food trend. Richard is also a *garagiste* winemaker, has completed several wine and spirit courses, and is a wine collector. They love entertaining at home, creating delicious meals paired with superb wines.

# Cheers!

BY **RICHARD KEYS**

*2015 vintage – fruity, flavoursome and fantastic!*

**B**ack in the day, aged was good. These days, we're getting wise to the different varietals and looking for more to try. We're exploring the joys of blends and drinking younger, fresher wines. We have a better understanding of how the actual vintage plays a huge role in the drinking pleasure of the wine.

The year 2015 is proving an exceptional vintage. A cold, wet winter led to good early growth; a warmer

August meant earlier budding; and a dry summer helped to control vineyard growth and brought the harvesting season forward by two weeks. This all contributed to less disease, and healthier grapes with concentrated juice.

These wines can be enjoyed now but could also do well with a few more years' maturation. Here are our top picks of everyday or special occasion wines, and unusual varieties from the 2015 vintage.

Wine is an integral part of life for many of us. We have a glass to wind down after work, on its own or with a meal. Whether it's a rich red around a fire or a cold, crisp white on a hot summer's day, we need to know more...



### **GLENELLY GLASS COLLECTION MERLOT 2015 (R80-R95)**

An excellent Merlot from Lady May de Lencquesaing's Stellenbosch farm, which she bought after selling the Chateau Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in Bordeaux and retiring to the Cape. It has wonderful mulberry, plum and blackberry aromas and tastes, backed up with soft cinnamon and cocoa, and is well balanced after a year in French oak.