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South African wines are enjoying a renaissance, but some remain elusive, say the Wine Ladies.

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DRINK

On the hunt for the elusive Leopard Frog



ASK THE WINE LADIES.COM

GEORGIA AND SUSANNE

Q: I am originally from Johannesburg and although I am now residing in Toronto my passion for South African wines has not waned.

I was thrilled to hear the interview last Saturday with the winemaker who called in from South Africa, and to learn about the progress these wines have made. I've tried, unsuccessfully, to find the Leopard Frog wines at the LCBO. Are these wines made in small quantities? Are they available, and if so, which of the two wines would pair best with potjiekos made with venison?

A: Indeed South African wines

have enjoyed a true renaissance with many of the excellent ones finding their way here into Ontario. The Leopard Frog wines you ask about are available exclusively through their importer Collio Estate Wines at www.colliowinery.com.

As to recommending which of the two wines would pair best with potjiekos, either Tantra, the more typical of a Bordeaux blend with Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, or Kiss & Tell, the more unusual blend of Shiraz, Merlot, Malbec and Mourvedre.

We first had to learn what potjiekos is. A little research tells us it is basically a stew of various meats, cooked very slowly, with little liquid and layers of seasoned vegetables. So much a part of South African culture, competitions for the best recipes are often held throughout different regions.

As your recipe includes venison, a strong-flavoured meat full of personality and character, we would suggest the Kiss & Tell — this wine is bold and full-bodied at 14.5 per cent alcohol.

Production is limited, only 500 cases are made of each wine for world consumption of which 50 cases are allotted to Ontario.

1050 CHUM every Saturday morning at 10 a.m., set that dial to connect with The Wine Ladies radio show. Joining us this week is the dynamic and hugely energetic CEO and president of Magnotta Winery, Rossana Dizio Magnotta.

— Discover the world of The Wine Ladies, Georgia and Susanne of The Yorkville Wine Company Ltd. Ask your own questions online at www.thewineladies.com.