

# Magwaza on cloud nine

## Sommelier named best of the best

Moses Magwaza, of the posh Restaurant Mosaic, was named South Africa's best sommelier at the 2017 Eat Out Awards last week.

He beat strong competition from sommeliers from the country's top restaurants. His feat follows that of the acclaimed restaurant, which was voted the second best in the country at the same awards, and that of the eatery's celebrated chef, Chantel Dartnall, who was named the world's Best Female Chef at The Best Chef Awards 2017 in Warsaw recently.

### **Who has been the greatest inspiration in your life?**

My mother. She has been so supportive and motivating of everything I do. Also, Mosaic's owner Cobus du Plessis has always been willing to go the extra mile to help me to achieve any goals particularly when it comes to my studies.

### **Describe your best moment with wine?**

When I met the legendary winemaker and owner of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Aubert De Villaine from Burgundy in France.

### **What is your favourite wine-and-dish pairing?**

In our current menu we have a dish called Tajine du Maghreb (capretto, prunes and argan oil) which is a beautiful goat dish. We pair it with a wine called Symington Altano Quint Do Altaide Organic Red 2012 from the Douro Valley in Portugal.

### **How did you develop the passion for wine?**

I started working at Mosaic

as a gardener and progressed to becoming a waiter. And then I was introduced to the wonderful world of wine and the bug bit.

### **What odds did you overcome to achieve the dream of becoming a sommelier?**

I had to persuade my family that this could be a career. I come from a very religious family and a mom who hates alcohol and who then had a son who was tasting alcohol almost on a daily basis.

### **What is the best wine you have ever tasted?**

Chateau D' Yquem Sauternes Lur Saluces 2007. The best sweet wine in Bordeaux, France, if not in the world. You cannot describe in words how wonderful the wine is.

### **What is your advice to someone still trying to understand wine?**

Don't be scared of trying new things. Wine is a fascinating subject; it makes you learn more about other cultures. Personally, I didn't like geography at school, but through wine lessons I now enjoy geography.



Moses Magwaza