



As one of South Africa's iconic winemakers, Ntsiki Biyela has forged a path to become a highly respected and widely admired name in the world of wine.

In 2016, she established Aslina Wines, inspired by the strength and determination of the biggest influence in her life, her grandmother. Today Aslina is renowned for its range of premium wines and is the realization of Ntsiki's dream to create an exceptional world-class brand.

Meet Ntsiki Biyela

Ntsiki grew up in Mahlabathini, a rural village in KwaZulu-Natal, and matriculated from high school in 1996. Having spent a year as a domestic worker, she was awarded a scholarship to study winemaking at Stellenbosch University in 1999. She graduated in 2003 with a BSc in Agriculture (Viticulture and Oenology) and joined boutique winery Stellekaya as their winemaker the following year. Ntsiki's ambition to create her own wines grew following a collaboration with Californian winemaker, Helen Kiplinger, as part of Mika Bulmash's Wine for the World initiative. It was over dinner and a glass of wine with her new colleagues in the USA that she shared the story of the inspiration behind her ambition. Her beloved grandmother was the guiding light in her life and it became obvious that her new brand should be named Aslina in the matriarch's honor.

Her winemaking philosophy drew upon earlier experiences of harvest in Tuscany and Bordeaux, where she discovered a close affinity with nature that rekindled her own deep connection with the soil growing up in KwaZulu-Natal.

On a later visit to France, she was invited to make a wine for The Winemakers' Collection, an opportunity afforded to a handful of winemakers from around the world.

Finally, she sits on the board of directors for the Pinotage Youth Development Academy, which provides technical training and personal development for young South Africans in the Cape Winelands, preparing them for work in the wine and tourism industries.

The program offers them the unique opportunity to emulate her own considerable success.

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Aslina Sauvignon Blanc 2021

100% Sauvignon Blanc

Grapes come from WIETA-certified producers. WIETA is the Wine Industry Ethical Trade Association.

1250 cases

"A complex Sauvignon Blanc with bright fruit, lots of citrus characters, lemon zest, beautiful complexity, and depth. Extended time on the lees gives this wine a unique, lingering, silky finish."



Aslina Chardonnay 2021

100% Chardonnay

900 cases

"A complex chardonnay, creamy, round and soft. Partial wooding gives this wine the edge and to show the beautiful tropical fruit and limy character. Slight buttery character showing on the palate. Good acidity balancing the fruit and wood."



Aslina Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Petit Verdot

1000 cases

The grapes were handpicked in March 2019. The wine was in wood for 16 months with 25% of the wine in 1st fill barrels and the rest in 2nd and 3rd fills. It was bottled in December 2020.

"A beautiful dark red wine with hints of minty characters and black currents."



Aslina Umsasane 2019

71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc, 12% Petit Verdot

650 cases

Umsasane is the Zulu word for umbrella tree, which gives shelter, protection and comfort. It was Ntsiki's grandmother's nickname and the bold structure, smoothness and complexity of this wine honour the characteristics of Aslina, the matriarch of the family.

"A beautiful deep dark color. Complex nose with different layers of fruits, plummy characters, cassis, hints of cigar box and dark chocolate. Good bold structure, tight ripe tannins, good balance of wood, acid and fruit giving this wine a long lingering finish."

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