

Riebeek Cellars celebrates Art in the Valley

During the annual Olive Festival in the Riebeek Valley, Riebeek Cellars decided to celebrate not only the valley's exceptional wine and food, but also to focus on the people who live here. While the astounding beauty of this little oasis in the Swartland, the quality of its produce and the artistic abilities of many residents are well-known and the main reason why the valley is famous among tourists from all over the world, it is the residents of the Riebeek Valley that really gives it that special flavour. With a cosmopolitan population all getting along remarkably well it is often forgotten that everyone does not have the same opportunities.

With Riebeek Cellars being the host to the annual Olive Festival Art Competition, we decided to give the event an interesting twist this year. In stead of giving existing artists the opportunity to exhibit, this year the art competition was exclusive to Meiring Primary – the next door neighbour of Riebeek Cellars and a school with many children who do not have the opportunities to attend art classes, etc. Things that are often taken for granted.

With the generous sponsorships of Consol (pallet divider boards to serve as canvasses), Neutron paints (a truck load of paint), Cape Agri (prizes such as camping chairs and back packs), PNA (prizes in the form of special art sets) and ABSA Malmesbury (t-shirts and caps) we were able to run a very special art competition.

Almost seventy of these 1.5 x 1.5 boards were painted by enthusiastic learners. They painted the valley, the landmark Kasteelberg mountain, vineyards and grapes, olive groves and olives, people dancing and laughing and all those things they experience in the valley. The children were very enthusiastic and so proud to exhibit their pieces of art against Riebeek Cellars outside wall for the duration of the Olive Festival (4 – 6 May).

