



### **Sommelier Cup – Sweden 2016**

On 09 May the Swedish round of the third Wines of South Africa (WOSA) Sommelier Cup competition was held at the Operaterassen in Stockholm. A member of the wine association Munkskänkarna for over a decade, 48-year-old Erik Grödahl was the winner, and he will go through to the finals held in South Africa in September this year.

Erik, a semi-finalist in the WOSA Sommelier Cup competition in 2013, was part of the winning team at the 2014 Swedish Blindtasting Championships and now coaches the Munkskänkarna team.

He is passionate about food and wine pairing, and has visited South Africa twice before. He is very excited about his next visit, and the opportunity to learn more about our wines and producers. He has a lot of hard work ahead of him as he plans to spend at least two hours a day preparing for the finals. We wish him all the best for his preparation and his forthcoming trip.

### **What is your experience of South African wine?**

South Africa is one of my favourite wine countries and I was there for the first time in 2006. Since then I've done around 40 tastings on the subject of South Africa. I often speak about South Africa, even at other tastings when it's about Fairtrade and sustainability. I also visited South Africa together with my son in 2010 for the FIFA World Cup, since soccer is one of my biggest interests!

### **What is your goal with the final in South Africa?**

I really look forward to visiting South Africa again and learning more about the wines, producers, soils etc, so that I can become more knowledgeable and an even better ambassador for South African wines.

My goal in the competition is to perform well. I know it will be tough but I will do my best. I will prepare for at least two hours, five days a week, and I think I will be the biggest buyer of South African wines in Sweden over the next four months!