

HEAD

WHEN AN ENTREPRENEURIAL COUPLE DECIDED TO BUILD A TASTING ROOM ON **THEIR STELLENBOSCH PROPERTY KUNJANI!**, THEY DIDN'T ANTICIPATE THAT HALDANE MARTIN WOULD TURN IT INTO A LANDMARK. BUT NOW THERE IT IS.



PHOTOS MICKY HOYLE
WORDS AMI KAPILEVICH

TURNER



YOU CAN'T MISS KUNJANI! WINES' TASTING ROOM.

Coming round a bend in Blumberg Drive, Devonvale – itself one of the most scenic roads in the Cape Winelands – the building greets you like a vivacious host at a Christmas lunch who knows that you'll just love her absolutely favourite Shiraz.

The lipstick red of the sliding screens and Kunjani! Wines signage enlivens the building's black paintwork and dark-grey Table Mountain slate, and contrasts intelligently with the green of the surrounding vineyards. Framed by the pine trees that line the road, Kunjani! is a smiling South African howzit. A warm and welcoming woza in the Winelands.

Those familiar with designer Haldane Martin's recent work at Urbanologi restaurant in Johannesburg or his 2016 design of Healey's Cheesery in Somerset West would not be completely surprised by the liberal doses of red. I, for one, thought that the colour was becoming something of a signature style or trademark flourish. But I was wrong.

"Oh no, it's not like red is my favourite colour or anything," Haldane says. "It just so happened that red has been the right colour for the projects and clients' brands that I have been involved in recently. And it was the right colour for Kunjani! Wines, which is a bold, unpretentious brand. Pia [Watermeyer] and Paul [Barth] are passionate people, so the red symbolises them."

In fact, the building as it exists today would not have been possible without co-owner Pia's passion. At first, the architects insisted that the building should be white, in line with the more traditional

Cape Dutch aesthetic of the Winelands.

"Haldane and I sat there being bullied by about 15 architects," Pia says, "but in the end I put my foot down."

Then Pia had to negotiate her husband's aversion to black.

"It's not a colour as far as Paul is concerned," she says.

But Pia has an impish determination, which acted as a vanguard for Haldane's vision.

Haldane relished getting more extensively involved in the architectural details on this project than usual. Out went the conventional wooden rafters, and in came slatted wooden ceiling and red steel tie beams, a reference to the traditional reed ceilings of old farmhouses.

Haldane invoked a pantheon of local designers and artists to complement his own creations: Doktor and Misses, La Grange Interiors, Pedersen + Lennard, James Mudge, Laurie Wiid van Heerden, Goet Furniture and Design, Sarah Ord Interiors, LIM, Robin Sprong Wallpapers, Peter Pharoah, Krisjan Rossouw...

In your rearview mirror, the red sliding screens take Kunjani! Wines from an arty shrine to a significant landmark. A monument, even, to the time when a feisty owner and progressive designer made sure that contemporary African flavour triumphed over traditional tastes. ✓

ary African flavour triumphed over traditional tastes. ✓

- haldanemartin.co.za
- kunjaniwines.co.za



01



PREVIOUS SPREAD

01 Not your traditional Cape Dutch style building! The bright red of the screens, with their chevron-like shapes that evoke traditional West African hut decorations, and the bold signage contrast deliberately with the green of the landscape.

02 Grey Table Mountain slate cladding adds texture and aesthetic appeal to the main entrance.

THIS SPREAD

01 The fireplace surround is made of a quilted aluminium that has been anodised to look like bronze, with copper strips to cover the joints. In front of it is a Haldane Martin Songololo sofa.

02 Brass halo lights lead the eye to the Sarah Ord Crayolla wallpaper, its bold brushstroke pattern echoing the Kunjani! Wines logo. Haldane Martin Sim-ply chairs add pops of accent red.



If you'd like to go on a tour of the Kunjani! Wines tasting room with VISI, visit VISI.co.za for details or e-mail events@VISI.co.za.

02



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02

KUNJANI! WINES IS A BOLD, UNPRETENTIOUS BRAND.



03



04

- 01 Wiid Design cork stools and Haldane Martin Simply barstools create a casual drinking area at the bar.
- 02 Metallic elements in the bathrooms echo the fireplace surround and bar, and contrast with the rough texture of the slate.
- 03 The spiral staircase leading down to the cellar has Voronoi pattern cutouts to evoke a descent into the Earth.
- 04 Zulu Mama café chairs, another classic Haldane Martin design, and Soma planters by Laurie Wiid van Heerden for Indigenus at the entrance to the building.
- 05 The cellar, with its horizontal leather strap storage system, is dominated by a large Krisjan Rossouw photograph, *Patricia II*. "The winemaker is a woman, and so is the co-owner," says Haldane, "so we wanted to include a strong feminine element that honours female entrepreneurs behind the project."



05

We love!