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19 MAY **Idiom to open wine centre and restaurant in June**

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CAPE TOWN - Toasting ten vintages of Idiom wines, the Bottega family has unveiled its new restaurant and wine tasting centre in Sir Lowry's Pass near Somerset West.

The Idiom Restaurant & Wine Tasting Centre is set among mountain vineyards with panoramic views of the Helderberg, False Bay and the Cape Peninsula.

The building was designed by architect Thomas Leach in partnership with Idiom owner Alberto Bottega and his son, Roberto.

Amongst other aspects, the building's self-supporting arches were made from local stone quarried on the farm, and the solid wooden posts and beams, cut from Eucalyptus Cladycalyx (Bluegum) trees.

The structure was built by Giuricich Construction, a firm of local builders originally hailing from the North-Eastern Italian region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, where Alberto Bottega spent his childhood before coming to South Africa.

The venue, which is scheduled to open next month, will offer fusion dishes of South African and Italian cuisine with a modern twist, all paired with Idiom wines.

The 60-seater dining space is linked to Idiom's concrete wine tasting 'cube' where wine lovers can sample and purchase Idiom wines. A luxury goods space featuring Idiom's wine-inspired perfumes, leather handbags and other accessories will also be incorporated.

A deli section is expected to open later in the year along with an Italian Wine Experience area that will showcase imported Italian wines.

The vineyards were first laid down by the Bottega Family in 1999. The 150 hectare Da Capo Vineyards property now has 40 hectares under vine and includes a selection of Italian varietals, including Sangiovese, Barbera, Nebbiolo and Primitivo. Current plantings total 17 different grape varietals.

The general manager of the venue is Hamish Hofmeyr, who was GM of The Marine hotel in Hermanus for eight years. The chef is Irwin de Vries, previously from Morukuru's AtholPlace in Johannesburg and Sir Richard Branson's Ulusaba Private Game Reserve in the Sabi Sand Reserve.

For more information, visit www.idiom.co.za.

(Information supplied by Random Hat Communications)

