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year 2000 by a young, university educated South African farmer, Anton Roos with American partners who have developed and managed some 700 acres of wine grapes in the Napa and Sonoma counties of California since 1973. Over the next seven years, all the fruit orchards and most of the old grapes were removed and the land replanted to some 11 modern wine grape varieties, including Pinotage, a variety developed in Stellenbosch in 1925 (virtually yesterday in wine industry terms). Today Silkbush includes plantings of 87 hectares (215 acres) which produce about 1,100 metric tons annually of exceptional grapes sold to five independent, quality oriented wineries. The vines on the steepest slopes are picked by hand but the gentler terrain is harvested by machine, driven carefully by Anton, our general manager and local partner.

One of our wineries is maturing a portion of our Pinotage wine in French and American oak barrels and we are exporting it under our Lions Drift label. Further, we are exploring other SILKBUSH-sourced wines (presently Shiraz and Viognier) under the Silkbush "Vineyard Designate" program.

The vineyards, planted 93% with red varieties, are blessed with abundant, pure mountain water captured in two large reservoirs, and rocky, well drained soils ideal for top quality fruit. The farm, located in the Breedekloof ward, has been improved in many ways, not the least of which was electrifying our workers' cottages for the very first time, and the construction of a 2 bedroom/2 bath guest facility know as the Kingsbury Cottage (shown above). We value highly our multi-racial people and are working to provide better lives and greater opportunities for all of them. And everyone in residence enjoys simply spectacular mountain sunsets and comfortable living conditions.

Much more information regarding this unique Western Cape mountain vineyard including over 800 captioned photos, and a sectioned entitled "So You are Planning a trip to South Africa?" can be found on our website: www.silkbush.com. Please enjoy our wines and realize you are contributing significantly to a New South Africa, widely acknowledged as the Rainbow Nation.