



INFORMATION ON CARL EVERSON

‘Carl Everson was the 4th generation descendent of JC Rossouw (Lang Jan - his nickname), the first owner of 2/3 of the current Slanghoek valley.

Lang Jan’s homestead was the ‘Opstal bij de fontein’ where a very strong natural fountain was found that provided water to him and his family through the year. From this homestead he later subdivided this huge farm into 9 sections, one for each of his 9 children. The original farm was called Opstal and the other 8 farms were Grietjiesdrift, Jasonsfontein, Breëland, Blaarfontein, Eikenbosch, Pruimboskloof, Swartvlei and Klipheuvel.

Initially the soil was used for grazing and gardening and we are not exactly sure when the first vineyards were planted. All the farms in Slanghoek valley had their own small wineries. Grapes were picked in cane baskets and on horse driven carts taken to the wineries. Later the wine was again transported by wagons to the local and national merchants. Rebate wine and dessert wine was made and Carl Everson also produced sherry for the Sedgwick and Taylor company. In 1950 the local Slanghoek Co-op was formed at which time my grandfather Carl Everson had the vision to stay private and retain his own wine identity. This important decision was done with the belief in himself, his vineyards and the generations that will follow in his footsteps.

Carl Everson passed away in July 1970 where after my parents, Attie and Ansie Louw, took over the full control and destiny of Opstal. (Carl Everson only had two daughters of which my mom, Ansie Everson was the heir to the Estate.) Modernization of the winery was very important and in 1974 the old winery was knocked down and a new modern structure was built with modern and more efficient equipment. In 1978 the first wine under the Opstal Estate label was produced and marketed in the local South African market. From 1980 selected premium cultivars were planted on the right slopes and soils and the result was more refined fruit and wines.’

STANLEY LOUW – 6th GENERATION OWNER AND MD

We always knew that this specific Chenin Blanc vineyard, planted in 1980 was special, bearing fruit loaded with complex flavours and wine with a beautiful elegance in structure. As early as 1987 this vineyard received the accolade as the champion vineyard block in South Africa. This is a premium vineyard from which a premium wine was made. It is thus a great honour and privilege to name this Chenin Blanc, the first wine in our Heritage Range, after our great grandfather, Carl Everson.

ATTIE LOUW – 7TH GENERATION WINEMAKER