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The 2022 <u>Absa</u> Top 10 Olive Oil Awards were celebrated on Friday, 7 October at the beautiful Asara Wine Estate in Stellenbosch.

Every year following the annual SA Olive Awards, the highest-scoring gold medal winners are entered into an additional round of blind judging. Out of this, the ten top scoring Extra Virgin Olive Oils are selected for the prestigious Absa Top 10 Olive Oil Award.

The Absa Top 10 Olive Oil accolades for 2022 were awarded to:

- Altevrede: Altevrede Favolosa
- De Rustica: De Rustica Collection: Coratina
- Falcon's Nest Farm: Chaloner The Peregrine Limited Edition
- Het Vlock Casteel: Het Vlock Casteel Favolosa
- Mardouw Investments: Mardouw XXV Intense
- Morgenster: Don Carlo Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Oudewerfskloof Olive Farm: OWK Picual
- Porterville Olives: Andante Delicate
- Rio Largo Olive Estate: Rio Largo Gold
- Zoetigheyd Farms: Zoetigheyd Premium Frantoio

SA Olive CEO Vittoria Jooste said: "We are delighted to be celebrating our South African olive oil producers with such a prestigious event. So much hard work, determination and technical expertise are needed to create EVOOs of the highest quality."

She said South African producers should be duly recognised for producing quality olive oils, year after year, despite the many challenges.

"The annual Absa Top 10 Olive Oil Awards is an excellent platform to showcase the best South African EVOOs and give producers – finalists and winners – the recognition they deserve," Jooste said.

Willem Nel, Absa's Regional Segment Head: High Value Banking and Premium Cape Region said: "After nearly a decade of working with SA Olive, we are proud to be part of this annual award ceremony once again. As we have recently celebrated Heritage Day, we truly believe that olive oil is deeply rooted in our heritage, and at Absa we take pride in celebrating the rich history, tradition, diversity, excellence and quality of South African Extra Virgin Olive Oil."

Nel praised the top-quality olive oils that South African producers create every year. "We need to do all we can to continually support and assist them in promoting their products as they play an invaluable role within the local olive industry. We would like to congratulate all entrants and winners on a job well done," he said.

In 2013, SA Olive and Absa joined forces to launch the Absa Top 5 Olive Oil Awards as an extension of the annual SA Olive Awards. In 2017, the prestigious recognition of the pursuit of excellence by South African olive oil producers became known as the Absa Top 10 Olive Oil Awards and continues to be a sought-after accolade to this day.

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