Ashbourne



Anthony Hamilton Russell, Owner

Anthony Hamilton Russell was born in Cape Town, South Africa in 1962. He is married to Olive and has four daughters. After schooling in Johannesburg and Cape Town, he completed a BSc in Biological Sciences at Wits University (Johannesburg), followed by an MA in Geography at Oxford University. He then worked as a financial analyst in Corporate Finance for Morgan Stanley International in London for two years prior to completing an MBA at Wharton where he graduated on the Dean's list. Following this, he worked in London for the management consulting firm Bain and Company.

In 1991, with the likelihood of positive political change in South Africa, Anthony returned to take over the family farm, Hamilton Russell Vineyards, which he subsequently purchased from the family in 1994. He focused this property on Pinot noir and Chardonnay alone and has devoted the last 20 years to building an international reputation for these two Estate grown wines as being among the most classically styled examples from the New World. Keen to work with South Africa's unique red variety, Pinotage, Anthony founded Southern Right as a separate property in 1994 to specialize in the variety. In 1996, he founded Ashbourne as a Pinotage blend specialist. Properties were acquired on the eastern and western borders of Hamilton Russell Vineyards for these ventures.

Anthony is known to be a passionate advocate of expressing origin – and soil structure in particular – in wines and of aiming for more "classic" styling. He is also a strong believer in the importance of developing a clearer wine style identity for South Africa's top appellations. Anthony has formally judged wines in South Africa, Argentina and Hong Kong. He has spoken at the MW symposium in Perth and has hosted a Cool Climate symposium for the MW's in South Africa. He has been a wine panelist at conferences in Chile, Switzerland, Australia, the UK, USA and South Africa. Anthony is a Chevalier du Tastevin and a Commandeur de Bordeaux.