Ashbourne



Olive Hamilton Russell, Owner

Olive Hamilton Russell grew up on a farm outside the town of Ermelo in Mpumalanga in the north of South Africa, which has been in her family for almost 200 years. She developed an early interest in food around the traditional family recipes based on the produce of the property.

After majoring in Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Stellenbosch, she worked in the food department at Harvey Nichols in London (her responsibilities included personal food shopping for some interesting celebrities!). She followed this as a trainee in food-product development at Woolworths in Cape Town. This led indirectly to a senior job in international home-ware buying for a small entrepreneurial company in Cape Town, with inevitable regular business travel to Europe and Asia.

Fate (and love) led to her marriage to Cape wine estate owner Anthony Hamilton Russell in 2004. Her role as "farmer's wife" resulted, as one would expect, in a deepening involvement in the wine business along with the prolific travel and entertaining that comes with the lifestyle.

Olive's passions include: entertaining friends at home; long foraging walks on the farm with Anthony and their pack of 5 dogs; painting with natural pigments from the property; and food discoveries from the numerous international destinations her and her husband's business takes them.

Olive completed an advanced diploma at the Cape Wine Academy to feed the strong interest in wine she developed as a student in Stellenbosch.