



DELHEIM

9 March 2009

Ansvarshavende chefredaktør Lisbeth Knudsen
Berlingske Tidende
Business.dk
Pilestræde 34
1147 København K.
Denmark

Dear Lisbeth Knudsen

We respectfully request that the article, dated February 27, 2009, "*Danish Wine Traders Are Accused of Unethical Importing*" be removed from the website business.dk or be amended with urgent effect. The article fails to place the incriminating issues in their fair context.

We also request that the contents of the Letter below be published as soon as practically possible to ensure that your readers have the opportunity of fair judgement.

We welcome critical articles that sometimes assist us in improving our organisation and our products and would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you and your representatives to visit our farm and to talk with any of our employees who live and work on Delheim.

Yours sincerely

Nora Sperling Thiel
Director

**CC. TUKAN APS
CAROVIN, SWEDEN
WOSA SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH AFRICAN POITICAL COUNSELLOR
DANISH JOURNALIST ASSOCIATION
WWW.DELHEIM.COM**

WINES OF ORIGIN SIMONSBERG STELLENBOSCH

KNORHOEK ROAD · P.O. BOX 210 · STELLENBOSCH 7599 · SOUTH AFRICA
TEL: 021 – 888 4600 · FAX: 021 – 888 4601 · E-mail: delheim@delheim.com · Website: www.delheim.com

Reg. No. 1963/003130/07

DIRECTORS: MH SPERLING, VH SPERLING & NV SPERLING-THIEL

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**FROM:
DELHEIM WINES (PTY) LTD
KNORHOEK ROAD
STELLENBOSCH,
SOUTH AFRICA**

9 March 2009

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor
Berlingske Tidende

In your article, entitled “*Danish Wine Traders Are Accused of Unethical Importing*” of 27 February 2009, you describe the plight of two pensioners who have worked for the South African wine farm Delheim for many years and are now being threatened with eviction from their homes.

The article suggests that this is a maltreatment of our staff and does not present the issue in its context. It further states that “employees of wine producers work under conditions that remind of those of the time of the apartheid regime” and it accuses some of the wine producers of “break (ing) the South African law”.

With regard to the threatened evictions: We are required to manage the 15 staff homes on our property in a way that ensures that we do not have overcrowding, which would result in health risks and social stress. In an effort to do this, we, since 2004, required that all our tenants annually submit applications for additional occupants. To date we have not refused a single such request and would only do so when the living conditions give us no other alternative.

Three of our fifteen tenants did not submit their applications for this year. All three have in the past complied with this requirement. After numerous requests over a period of three months, and when we felt we had no other option, we instructed our lawyer to draft a letter stating that their right of occupation would be terminated if they did not apply for the additional occupants. The letter stated that no further action would be taken if they complied within 30 days.

Following this, the union Sikhula Sonke, which until then did not have representation on the farm, contacted us and requested a meeting. We have subsequently met and understood from them that they had encouraged the three tenants not to fill in the applications. We have been in discussions with the union since November last year about the matter and the eviction procedure has not been pursued.

We take pride in our labour practices and certainly do not want to evict the people described in your article.

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Delheim supports the principles of fair trade and is unequivocally opposed to apartheid or any other form of discrimination. However, your article has made us aware of the need to keep our International agents better informed and we are instituting initiatives to do so.

Delheim fully complies with South Africa's Employment Equity Act of 1998; and its employment policies and activities have been independently audited by our Department of Labour as recently as October 2008. A further, external Ethical Audit, required by one of our principle distributors, and which is acknowledged as a benchmark in our industry, is taking place in April 2009. We also comply with the Wine Industry Ethical Trade Association's requirements and are investigating the merits of the internationally recognised Fair Trade endorsement.

Readers interested in more details are invited to consult our website at www.delheim.com.

Yours sincerely

Nora Sperling Thiel
DIRECTOR

End

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