

Orchid Photograph of the Year 2009

Paphiopedilum Fleur du Cap 'Merlot' AM/SAOC 82%

Text & Photography by NOLLIE CILLIERS
Plantae Orchids, Boscia, Kleinfontein, Brits.
E-mail: info@plantae.co.za Website: www.plantae.co.za

Paphiopedilum Fleur du Cap 'Merlot' is an outstanding orchid that has the same deep plum hues as the alluring Merlot wine that inspired its name.



Paphiopedilum Fleur du Cap 'Merlot' AM/SAOC 82%.

Living up to the fine reputation of its award winning namesake, *Paphiopedilum* Fleur du Cap 'Merlot' received an Award of Merit from the South African Orchid Council.

"We needed to name the plant. Normally the colour and shape plays a big role in the naming of a grex and choosing the varietal name. The colour reminded us of a good Merlot. We then thought of the similarities between growing an award winning orchid and that of growing and producing an award winning wine, Fleur du Cap was a natural choice."

The photograph of *Paphiopedilum* Fleur du Cap 'Merlot' was taken with a Sony a100 digital SLR camera using the standard 18-70mm lens. I usually take around 10 photos at different aperture settings and flash settings. Photos are always taken in bright but not direct sunlight with a black velvet background.

We have the luxury with digital cameras that we can take as many photos as we would like without paying for the development cost of the film. These days anyone can take beautiful photographs with just a little bit of practice! *