

The Development of the Farm

SIXTH PHASE: A WERF RESTORED AND A HERITAGE CONSERVED

Around 2007-2008, Klein Diamant was bought by Charles Back (of neighbouring farms Spice Route and Fair View). At the same time, businessmen Jaap Du Toit and Jean van Heerden bought Groot Diamant. Together they envisaged a future for Diamant where the werf was restored as a single unit. Back invested greatly in the agricultural development of the land, while Du Toit and Van Heerden invested in the restoration of the buildings. All parties were narrowly involved in the restoration process together with specialist heritage architect, Johan Malherbe, from Malherbe Rust Architects in Paarl. They invested a sum estimated to be equal to the purchase price of the farms in the agriculture and building restoration respectively. The result of their combined efforts is agriculturally working farmlands, while the werf is operated as a function facility with a restaurant, wedding chapel, function venue and guest house. Today the farm is a living heritage. A place where the visitor can learn about the local history through the many layers evident on site.