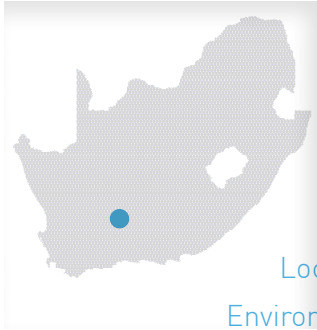


## Food and Beverage



Location Western Cape, South Africa

Environment Outdoor

Grade/surface AISI 304/Polished

Source of information SASSDA

# Stainless Steel for Vineyard Supports

The Western Cape region of South Africa is a well-known wine producing area with many internationally renowned brands. As in any farming enterprise, the vineyard owners face ongoing budgetary pressures and any cost savings which can be achieved can have a significant impact on the competitiveness of the product and the profitability of the enterprise. Vines have traditionally been supported in this region by a trellis structure, using wooden posts for vertical support and wire strands for horizontal support. Apart from the high labour cost associated with assembling the posts and wires, cost and sustainability issues began to emerge around the sourcing of wood en posts in a country with a scarce water supply. Metal posts offered a practical alternative, but standard steel profiles had a limited life span in an environment where fertilizers and pesticides are routinely mixed with irrigation water resulting in a relatively harsh environment. Furthermore, steel posts tend to be heavy, which adds cost to transport and installation. Thin gauge stainless steel profiles provided superior strength which allowed for thinner gauges, and superior and corrosion resistance together with a lighter weight. The cold rolled profiles are simply driven into the soil with a hammer. The design incorporates angled slots on the sides, which allow the installation teams to simply hook the horizontal wires onto the post before tightening the strands from both ends. The product is complemented with a full set of connectors, end braces and tightening mechanisms, which offer the vineyard a modular and flexible fencing support system.

