

Chairman's Note

The Pinotage Association is one of South Africa's most recognized varietal associations. Since being founded in 1995, the association has contributed significantly to the growth, the development and the marketing of Pinotage over the past decades.

More than ever before, Pinotage wines are receiving local and international recognition in various awards and competitions. This is a demonstration of how Pinotage has become the pinnacle of a proudly South African variety. It also demonstrates the tenacity and resilience of our Pinotage producers.

2020/21 has undeniably been the most challenging years endured in South Africa and across the world. Albeit, the wine industry has stood firm and remains optimistic. Presenting many opportunities for us to be innovative, re-think how we do business and continue to remain relevant.

The Pinotage Association has launched the first classification of Pinotage under the auspices of Grand Pinotage. Our Pinotage online training program will see many local and international wine enthusiasts be educated and well informed on Pinotage, accelerating the launch of the Top 10 Pinotage Brand Ambassadors and opening doors for more to pursue careers in the wine industry. Several collaborative efforts to drive the advancement of wine in South Africa was formed with the several institutes which is a positive move forward.

Our valuable contribution to the industry is made possible through our sponsor Absa, who has through the years proved to be a key player in the agricultural and wine sectors in South Africa.



Beyers Truter

The Story of **Pinotage**

The name Pinotage is a combination of **Pinot-** (from Pinot Noir) and **-age** (from Hermitage). The historical timeline spans from 1925 where the first seeds were planted by Prof Izak Perold.

1930



1940

1941

1943 the first commercial plantings of Pinotage at Myrtle Grove farm in Somerset West.

1950

1960

1970

1973 Kanonkop bottled and sold under Kanonkop Label, and Bellevue, 1999 being the first vintage of Pinotage sold under their own label.

1980

1990

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1935

The first Pinotage was made by CT de Waal

1943

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1959

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1973

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1991

1935 the four seedlings were rescued and nurtured at Elsenburg by Prof CJ Theron.

Stellenbosch
Farmers' Winery
(now Distell)
combined the
vintage of Bellevue
and Kanonkop
marketed as
Lanzerac Pinotage
1959.

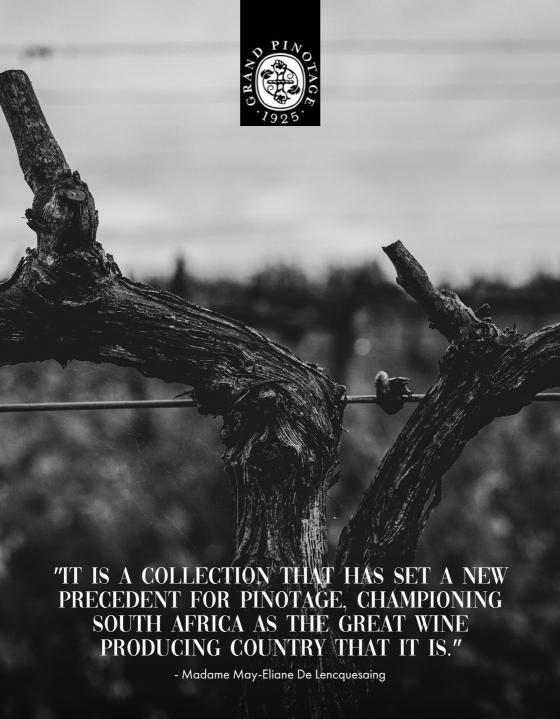
1991 Beyers
Truter was named
International
Winemaker of the
year, one of the
achievements for
Pinotage that made
headlines around
the world.

The **Pinotage** 1995 **Association** is founded. 1997 the Absa Top 10 competition is launched, paving the way for numerous other wine cellars to be recognised both locally and internationally, for their own uniquely South African Pinotages. 2020 The first classification of a South African variety - Grand Pinotage. **Pinotage** 2025 turns 100!

What does the future hold for Pinotage wines?

There will always be a demand for good quality wine, it has been part of history for many centuries. Pinotage is just short of celebrating 100 years, not only because of the impact of three men, namely the man who created it (Abraham Perold), the man who grafted it (CJ Theron) and the man who helped bring it to the world stage (Beyers Truter), but also because of the resilience of our South African wine industry. The increasing number of informed wine consumers. The tenacity of our world class winemakers and viticulturalists who are in sync with their terroir and understand the fundamentals of making exceptional Pinotage wines. The future of Pinotage will continue to showcase this pinnacle of a proudly South African variety.

Now 95 years later, Pinotage has the first classification of a South African variety – Grand Pinotage. The launch of the Grand Pinotage is a hallmark moment in South African wine and Pinotage history. This classification will contribute to the advancement of quality improvement, education and research for Pinotage.





The launch of Grand Pinotage is a hallmark moment in South African wine and Pinotage history, leading up to its centenary in 2025.

This collection represents emblematic Pinotage wines from South Africa. Curated as a case of six, these distinctive Grand Pinotages comprise the most celebrated producers over the past two decades: Beyerskloof, Kaapzicht, Kanonkop, L'Avenir, Rijk's and Simonsig. Only 250 uniquely authenticated and numbered cases are available in South Africa of the yearly 500, making it a worthy and rare investment for those in pursuit of the iconic.

An allocation of Grand Pinotage also secures backstage access to the Grand Pinotage website, with news about the intricacies of making Grand Pinotage wines, winemaker and viticulturalist interviews, special features, exclusive releases and events

Grand Pinotage is a non-profit initiative where proceeds of your purchase are reinvested into quality improvement initiatives for Pinotage. Book your place in history and the Grand Pinotage collector's community by reaching out to us. However, haste is advised as allocations are dwindling. Available from the Grand Pinotage curators at R9 000 per case.



(From left to right) Abrie Beeslaar, Kanonkop; Anri Truter, Beyerskloof; Michael Malan, Simonsig; Danie Steytler, Kaapzicht; Pierre Wahl, Rijk's; Dirk Coetzee, L'Avenir.

A good year for Pinotage despite pandemic disruptions

By Denene Erasmus

Ever since reports became public in the early months of 2020 of the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the pandemic has unfolded at high speed across the globe to cause widespread tragedy.

Apart from the devastating loss of life, the pandemic also caused significant disruption to international trade and markets. In South Africa, COVID-19 and the related business lockdown. resulted in economic hardship for many businesses and individuals. One of the few sectors that were at least partially shielded from the worst impacts of the lockdown, due to its essential-service status, was the agricultural sector. But even within farming there were some exceptions. The COVID-19related lockdown regulations had a severe impact on the wine industry. According to industry body, Vinpro, the three-week ban on exports resulted in an enormous direct export revenue loss, while the industry lost R400 million per week when the local sale of wine was prohibited.

At the end of 2020, South Africa had a wine surplus of about 250 million litres, and many wine cellars were urgently seeking alternative opportunities to market not only the 2020 surplus, but also the 2021 harvest.

Fortunately, there was some early indication that wine sales results for the second half of 2020 recovered strongly. Wine cellars were also granted some relief when new lockdown restrictions were announced in December, which exempted cellars from the reduced trading days and hours that were again imposed on alcohol sales.

While there was no denying the overwhelming impact that the ban on alcohol sales during levels 5 and 4 of the lockdown had on South African wine producers, according to Beyers Truter, chairperson of the Pinotage Association, in the

months following the ban, demand from local wine drinkers rebounded strongly. "People were spending more time cooking at home and buying South African wines to have with their homecooked meals. I reckon if we ignore those weeks when wine sales were banned, and look specifically at the second half of the year, we would most likely see an increase in local wine sales for those months compared to 2019," Truter said.

It was difficult to judge at this stage, he said, whether the demand for Pinotage increased more than the demand for South African wine in general, but some feedback from Pinotage grape producers suggest that there was good demand for these arapes from cellars for the 2021 harvest.

Raising the bar

A major focus of the Pinotage Association is to promote wines made using this proudly South African wine grape variety on the local market, but ultimately the association wants to achieve international recognition for the homegrown variety. "Most wine drinkers in South Africa know about Pinotage, and this awareness is reflected in the growing popularity of the wine. However, what we find really encouraging is that there is also growing international awareness about Pinotage. A recent survey of overseas tourists who visit the Western Cape to explore the winelands and local wines showed that most of these visitors were interested, specifically, in tasting and drinking Pinotage," said Truter.

The association also aimed to educate wine drinkers about the maturation potential of Pinotage by showcasing wines that are at least 10 years or older in the Icon Vintage Class, a separate class in the ABSA Top 10 Pinotage competition. "The top performing Pinotage wines in our Icon Vintage Class are proof that this variety does age very well.

We want to grow this class and to encourage more producers to enter, we have lowered the number of bottles they need to have in stock in order to qualify for entering," said Truter.

Pierre Wahl, winemaker at Rijk's Cellar in Tulbagh, which has been one of the most consistent top performers in the ABSA Top 10 Pinotage competition, says they store wines and only release their top tier Pinotage wines to market once these have already matured for some years and are ready to be marketed. In 2020, the Rijk's Reserve Pinotage 2010 was one of the three wines to be awarded in the Icon Vintage Class, and the Rijk's Pinotage/Syrah 2015 was a winner in the 2020 Perold Absa Cape Blend Competition.

Going virtual

One of the consequences of the lockdown was that the association could not host, large, physical events at which to announce the winners in its annual competitions, including the ABSA Top 10 Pinotage competition that was presented for the 24th time in 2020, the Pinotage Rosé competition that was presented for the fourth time, and the Perold ABSA Cape Blend competition that has been running since 2011. Instead, the winners were announced during virtual events, which, according to Pinotage Association brand manager, Belinda Jacobs, turned out to be a fortuitous turn of fate. The ABSA Top 10 Pinotage awards function, an annual highlight for the association, was hosted virtually this year. In previous years, only 180 to 200 guests were invited to attend the physical event, but in 2020, the virtual event drew 4 800 views just on Facebook. "We were able to reach a much larger audience than in the past and because of this we plan to continue hosting a variety of online experiences not only limited to virtual tastings, but also Pinotage Brand Ambassador online courses and online content for local and international audiences showcasing Pinotage as the pinnacle

of a proudly South African variety. We will also continue to include a virtual component for our various awards functions in future," said Jacobs.

The Pinotage effect

Earlier in 2020, when announcing the winners for the 2020 Pinotage Rosé competition, the association said that the introduction of the competition in 2017, interest in this category has skyrocketed, having grown immensely popular among casual wine drinkers and aficionados alike. The increased demand has resulted in more producers adding Pinotage Rosé to their wine portfolios. Wahl said they have definitely seen an increase in the demand for their introductory level Pinotage, which is a lighter style red than the top tier wines. "The lighter styles are more accessible, both in terms of style and price, for new wine drinkers and wine drinkers who are not familiar with Pinotage. But it is encouraging to see that once people start drinking these introductory styles of Pinotage, they tend to be impressed by the quality of the wine and many of them then become more comfortable spending a bit more on buying the top tier wines," said Wahl. Since 2002, Rijk's Cellar has increased the volume of Pinotage it produced from 6 000 to 90 000 bottles.

The success achieved by the Pinotage Association in marketing South African wine both locally and internationally has a positive ripple effect throughout the wine industry. Truter explained that by raising the profile of quality Pinotage wines, consumers become more comfortable paying a higher price for the product. This, in turn, means that wine grape growers are able to earn a premium for good-quality Pinotage grapes, which means that it makes economic sense for them to continue producing grapes, and as a result, jobs created on wine farms are protected.

Premiumisation of Pinotage

By Peter F May author of Pinotage: Behind the Legends of South Africa's Own Wine

Pinotage prices are steadily increasing as connoisseurs crave the variety and are prepared to pay for premium Pinotages.

Pinotage is a wine that can be enjoyed both when young and aged. In youth it offers primary fruit with nuances of chocolate and mocha and an intriguing impression of sweetness even when totally dry that is a hall mark characteristic of the variety. With aging – and Pinotage can age well for decades – it transforms, subsuming upfront fruits for complexity, forest floor flavours and tastes like fine aged claret or Burgundy.

But Pinotage is dogged in the international arena with a bad reputation that dates back to wines of the last century. These opinions are so often repeated by later writers that when a modern Pinotage is tasted it is thought to be an exception. What happened was that when worldwide orders for South African wines followed the ending of sanctions a number of poorly made wines went to fulfil demand. Reviewers didn't blame varieties they knew, but when experiencing their first Pinotage off-flavours were attributed to the variety.

Twenty-five years have since passed, with each new vintage a chance to learn more about the best ways to grow and make Pinotage. 1959 was the first commercially released varietal Pinotage vintage; the total number of Pinotage vintages has increased by 70% since and much has been learned. Winemakers hone skills in other countries' wineries. Winery owners can access modern winemaking equipment and barrels denied them during the sanctions era. And particularly from academic study, much of it initiated by the Pinotage Association.

This producers association was founded in 1995 by Beyers Truter, who gained his reputation as a master of Pinotage while winemaker at Kanonkop Estate. One of four principles of The Pinotage Association is 'to prioritise research needs regarding Pinotage' and the results of this research have been published by the Association with main points freely available on their website.

There is no doubt the quality of Pinotage wines has greatly improved. So how to produce premium Pinotage from already excellent wines?

It is not generally understood by consumers that even single variety wines are a blend. Wines are made from grapes from differently aged vines growing in different blocks and vineyards, maybe with several clones and on various rootstocks. Wines aged in wooden barrels which often come from a mix of coopers and woods. Each barrel, even when seemingly identical, exerts its own influence on wine developing inside. So, before bottling, wines are homogenised by mixing in large vessels.

To make a premium wine involves holding back some from the rest. Barrels giving superior results can be identified, blended together and bottled. Grapes from a single block or vineyard can be bottled separately. Historic vines are prized, and the oldest Pinotage vineyards are now more than 6.5 old

Selected wines can be given further treatment, such as longer aging and using all new oak barrels. The process can continue down to a single barrel. Making a premium wine is costly and the amount of bottles produced is limited with scarcity another factor in raising the price.

With producers pushing Pinotage to its pinnacle and enthusiasts wanting ever more, there's no doubt we'll be seeing more premium Pinotages.

Effect of grapevine canopy side on sensory attributes of red varieties

Background and aim

Grapevine row direction, canopy exposure and grape maturity can define the sensory attributes of wine. From this perspective, canopy exposure that favours colour intensity, astringency, aroma intensity and balanced acidity could result in improved wine quality. The aim of this study was to examine the effect of canopy exposure on selected sensory attributes of Pinotage and Cabernet Sauvignon wines from Paarl, Durbanville and Darling in South Africa.

Methods

- Pinotage and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were harvested from both sides of the canopy of vines planted to E-W and N-S directions.
- Wines were made from the harvested grapes.
- Grapes and wines underwent physicochemical and sensory analysis.

Results

- Durbanville Cabernet Sauvignon from the south side had decreased alcohol content. Total acidity (TA), residual sugar (RS) and pH were not different between sides. Wines from the east side had increased colour, aroma, mouthfeel and overall quality.
- Paarl Cabernet Sauvignon was not different between sides for any physicochemical characteristics, except TA. Wines from the south side had increased colour, aroma, mouthfeel and overall quality.

- Darling Pinotage was not different between sides for any physicochemical characteristics. Wines from the west side had increased intensity of aroma and acidity.
- Durbanville Pinotage from the east side had increased alcohol, pH, TA, colour and aroma intensity as well as overall quality.

Significance of the study

The results confirm that canopy exposure has an effect on the wine sensory attributes. This investigation illustrates the variation in sensory attribute scores of Pinotage and Cabernet Sauvignon wines from different canopy sides. Canopy exposure in a vineyard of a specific region, orientated to an E-W or N-S direction, which favours colour intensity, aroma intensity and/or mouthfeel, could result in improved wine quality. Future investigations should focus on samples collected over at least three consecutive vintages, as well as the monitoring of temperature and photosynthetic active radiation.

Reference: P.P. Minnaar, N.P. Jolly, N.S. Ntushelo. Effect of Grapevine Canopy Side on Selected Sensory Attributes of Pinotage and Cabernet Sauvignon Wines. S. Afr. J. Enol. Vitic., Vol. 41, No. 1, 2020.

https://doi.org/10.21548/41-1-3619

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Researcher: Phyllis Burger

The aim of this project is to screen and phenotype new Pinotage plants that were generated in a pilot study that focused on developing methods to induce mutations. The intention was that the mutations could lead to potentially novel clones.

In the pilot study, irradiance doses of buds were optimised and associated methods were successfully applied to regenerate viable plantlets. Three clones of Pinotage were used and a significant population of plantlets were yielded. These plantlets are now being further screened for vegetative and reproductive traits that could eventually lead to identification and development of new 'Pinotage' clones.

A phased approach is being followed where the initial screening occurs in tunnels or greenhouses to identify a smaller subset with desirable traits. The smaller subset will eventually be transplanted to a field plot for more comprehensive phenotyping. There is high potential for new clones with specific commercially important traits however, it is not a given that researchers will discover such clones.

Clones (and sometimes new varietals) normally arise through natural mutations and there are numerous examples, especially in very old varietals that were widely grown in diverse conditions. Obvious pronounced differences (i.e., berry colour and different leaf shape) are usually regarded as new cultivars, while more subtle variations in traits (i.e., looser clusters or earlier ripening) are regarded as clones. Relatively young cultivars, such as 'Pinotage' typically have fewer clones identified, since it has not been as widely and extensively planted under varying conditions to allow for natural mutations to occur and be spotted or selected.

Currently, only a few commercial clones of Pinotage exist and given the growing importance of the cultivar and its more widespread plantings, a more diverse set of clones to choose from is desirable. overall quality.

Pinotage Overview 2020





Total area under vines (hectares)

Year	2010	2012	2015	2018	2020
Hectares	6240	6921	<i>7</i> 361	6791	6637
%	6.18	6.91	7.47	7.30	7.21



6637 Hectares

Geographic Distribution 2019 (hectares)

Northern Cape Olifants River	Swartland	Klein Karoo	Paarl	Robertson	Stellenbosch	Worcester	Breedekloof	Cape South Coast
47 597	1383	46	1294	<i>7</i> 19	1198	390	918	<i>7</i> 1

% Pinotage in Wine Region



Domestic total litres

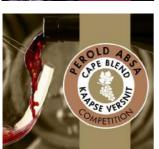
2018	2019	2020
4731035	4992871	4281570

Age Distribution (hectares) > 20 years 2722 16-20 years 724 11-15 years 536 4-10 years 2200 < 4 years 536

Exports

		2019	·	·	2020	
Country	Packaged	Bulk	Total	Packaged	Bulk	Total
UNITED KINGDOM	1 928 253	2 680 300	4 608 553	2 225 454	2 489 105	4 714 559
RUSSIA	1 831 860	23 660	1 855 520	1 667 577	23 920	1 691 497
CHINA	1 112 560	47 700	1 160 260	778 594	356 930	1 135 524
GERMANY	594 <i>7</i> 06	5 862 926	6 457 632	695 437	5 441 240	6 136 677
SWEDEN	536 820	-	536 820	418 452	-	418 452
USA	441 505	-	441 505	412 335	176 960	589 295
DENMARK	179 240	262 990	442 230	52 888	407 540	460 428
FRANCE	87 894	259 280	347 174	55 048	218 280	273 328
POLAND	42 219	216 020	258 239	77 656	239 020	316 676
TOTAL - all countries	8 865 699	9 612 036	18 477 735	8 473 202	9 801 295	18 274 497







Absa Top 10 Pinotage Competition

The Absa Top 10 Pinotage Competition is an annual proudly South African wine competition that rates and reviews wines based on one important criteria - quality. South Africa has a rich legacy in wine-making dating back to 1659 and may be one of the best wine-producing countries, with this outstanding wine-making heritage.

The competition is one of the most relevant and unique wine competitions for Pinotage in South Africa. The competition is judged by an astute panel of experts in the industry.

Perold Absa Cape Blend Competition

The aim of the Perold Absa Cape Blend Competition is to showcase the best expression of various Pinotage – oriented wine styles, it is all about the quality and the style. A cape blend is a blended red wine of which Pinotage constitutes the majority component of the blend.

The Perold Absa Cape Blend Competition is constantly growing and so is the amount of participating wine producers. The award winners of the competition are acknowledged by both wine masters and the wine enthusaist locally and internationally.

Pinotage Rosé Competition

The Pinotage Rosé Competition, conducted annually, is a significant event which provides an exciting challenge to the local wine makers. This competition focuses on the different expressions of Pinotage, reiterating the vision to incorporate and support various styles and communicates the value and growing popularity of Pinotage Rosé wines.

Future events

International Pinotage Month, is the celebration of South Africa's home grown grape variety and showcased during the month of October. On the second Saturday of October, the promotion of Pinotage takes precedent on the wine calendar of every wine enthusiast, wine farm, restaurant and online tasting experiences.

Pinotage Brand Ambassador online training in collaboration with The Great Big Wine Survey (TGBWS), will get everyone educated and excited about Pinotage. The precursor to the Absa Top 10 Pinotage Brand Ambassador program is something to look out for. Launching August 2021.

Woman's Month - Pinotage pret met Leatitia Solomons and celebrity guests. Live social media engagements celebrating woman.

Promoting Pinotage locally with the Sommeliers Association of South Africa (SASA). The month of September is dedicated to the sommeliers of South Africa, informative and engaging online sessions with topics ranging from Woman in wine to Group engagements on food and wine. Starts September 2021.

Drinking Windows, this exciting collaboration with Institute of Cape Wine Masters (ICWM) should be diarised. Tasting experience bringing the wine lands to your home and contributing to the Vision 2030 of ICWM. Engaging and entertaining. Starts August 2021.



We do more so you can. That's Africanacity.

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In case you missed it:

WE HAVE ANNOUNCED OUR 2021 ABSA TOP 10 FINALISTS

The Absa Top 10 Pinotage Competition winners will be announced live from Grande Roche in Paarl on 31 August 2021.



(Top left to right) Stellenrust Pinotage 2019; Francois van Niekerk Pinotage 2019; Beeslaar Pinotage 2018; Flagstone Writer's Block Pinotage 2018; Vondeling Bowwood Pinotage 2017; Kanonkop Pinotage 2019; Neil Ellis Pinotage 2019; Johan van Zyl Pinotage 2018; Neethlingshof Pinotage 2020; Wellington Wines La Cave Pinotage 2018.

(Bottom left to right) Beyerskloof Diesel Pinotage 2018; Diemersdal The Journal Pinotage 2019; Rijk's Reserve Pinotage 2016; Koelenhof Stellenbosch 1679 Pinotage 2019; Beeslaar Pinotage 2019; Simonsig Redhill Pinotage 2018; Beyerskloof Winemakers Reserve Pinotage 2018; Môreson The Widow Maker Pinotage 2018; Diemersdal Pinotage Reserve 2020; Rijk's Reserve Pinotage 2015

VIEW THE PREVIOUS (2020)

ABSATOP 10 PINOTAGE WINNERS

Aan De Doorns

Vintage 2018 Pinotage

WO Worcester Winemakers: Gert van Deventer, Chris Geldenhuys AV 14.5, RS 2.8, TA 5.4, PH 3.47

This Pinotage is situated in the beautiful Scherpenheuwel area in the Worcester Region. The vines are on a trellis ("4-draad-verlengde Perold") system. Irrigation is needed from the Breede River and Brandvlei dam scheme because rainfall is normally less than 200 mm per year. Grapes are machine harvested, @ average of 25 - 26 Balling. At crushing French oak powder is used just to help with colour stability Then grapes go in big 80 t or 15 ton fermentation vessels, and for the first 24 hours I like to keep the juice and skins very cold to about 16 -18°C and the day after I will do my yeast inoculation with a Saccharomyces yeast strain, set my automatic temperature regulator to do the fermentation on 24°C with a 5-time pump over splash of 20 minutes each day for the first three day and there after only 2 pump overs for another 3-4 days till it's dry. Then pressing with 50% press juice blended with the Free-run, the rest of press go to Dry red pool. Malolactic fermentation went naturally, then racked, centrifuged and fined. Then wine will be racked finally into 2000 and 1000lt Flexcube tanks and these tanks are inserted with French oak stayes and matured for 8 - 10 months before bottling, depends on demands of sales. A smooth / easy drinking wine, and has nice dark plum fruit characters. This Pinotage is an easy drinking wine and will be enjoyed and appreciated by good company of friends and family among the campfire with good food!







Anura Vineyards

Signature Pinotage 2017

WO Simonsberg Paarl Winemaker: Stander Maass AV 15, RS 2.9, TA 5.6, PH 3.54

The wine was made from one block located on Anura Vineyards in the Simonsberg-Paarl region. The vineyard is plated in decomposed granite soil on a North west facing slope. The vines are trellised, and the block is around 18 years old. The grapes were hand harvested at 24.8° Balling, cold soaked for 48 hours and inoculated with commercial yeast. Fermentation took place in 5-ton open fermenters at 24°C with regular punch-downs, combined with pump-overs. Once fermentation was completed the wine spend another 3 weeks on the skins. Only free run wine wat taken to 80% new American oak barrels and MLF was done in barrel. The wine was matured in barrel for 22 months and prepared for bottling. No filtration was done prior to bottling. The wine is made in a new world style with a combination of red a black berry aroma on the nose, supported by toffee and vanilla flavours in the background. The palate is full with soft ripe tannins ensuring a lingering aftertaste.



Beyerskloof

Diesel Pinotage 2017

WO Stellenbosch Winemaker: Anri Truter AV 14.82, RS 1.8, TA 6.1, PH 3.46

Grapes were hand harvested early in February form bush vines situated in the Bottelary hills area of Stellenbosch. Optimum ripeness for picking was at 25°B. Once destemmed berries went through a sorting system to minimize greenness. Fermentation took place in open casks, with punch downs done every 2 hours for 4-5 days. Grapes were pressed before fermentation finished and malolactic fermentation took place in stainless steel tank. Wine went into new French oak barrels for 18 months after which only the best barrels were selected for this wine. A big structured wine with intense dark fruit flavours. This wine has great depth and balance with pleasant lasting finish. The wine will age superbly for 10 years or longer.







Conradie Penhill Wines

Pinotage Barrel Selection Reserve 2019

WO Western Cape Winemaker: CP Conradie AV 15.05, RS 2.6, TA 6.3, PH 3.39

Grapes were handpicked and received on 26° Balling, grapes were cooled down to 0°. Grapes were cold soaked for 4 days; do manual punch-downs for the best colour extraction. During fermentation, punch downs continued daily. MLF in oak barrels with barrel inserts 50% French & 50% American, 12 Months in barrels, From 2006 the Conradie brand walked a triumph and excellent records of exceptional Pinotage and Cabernet Sauvignon throughout the following years. Pinotage is one of our customers' favourite wines, one sip, and you're hooked forever. This harmonious combination is a recipe for a bold fruity Pinotage with wafts of plums, well-integrated spiciness, and dusted with a smokey finish and juicy tannins. Ronwan Griffiths our assistant winemaker who recently completed his wine training SA - Winemaking Learnership ensured that this Pinotage will be one of excellence for many years. Ageing 8-10 years. We are extra proud of his great achievement.



Delheim Wines

Vera Cruz Pinotage 2016

WO Simonsberg Stellenbosch Winemaker: Roelof Lotriet AV 14.71, RS 1.9, TA 5.9, PH 3.37

The Vera Cruz Pinotage 2016 is our single vineyard block located on our Vera Cruz property on the foot slopes of the Simonsberg mountain. Situated on South-West facing slopes at an altitude of 240m above sea level provides this block with just the right amount of sun and sea breeze exposure to express Pinotage at its finest. The grapes are handpicked from bush vines planted 1996 (20 years old at harvest) with deep roots in classic Simonsbera Oakleaf soil. The entire block is harvested over two weeks picking different parcels usually at 24.5° Balling. The grapes are sorted, destemmed, crushed and then transported to small open top fermenters. Fermentation is done at 28 degrees and done with selected yeast strains. Punch downs are done 5 times a day until fermentation is dry and then pressed. The wine goes through MLF in barrel before its first rack and return. A portion of the wine is matured in 300L French oak barrels and the rest in 500L French oak barrels, 30% New wood is used for this wine the rest compromises of 2nd and 3rd fill barrels. Maturation in barrels takes place over 18 months and barrel allocation is done every 3 months to ensure only the best barrels make the final blend. The final blend is lightly filtered before bottling. The 2016 has a very vibrant bright red fruit profile, a weighty pallet and a tannin structure stitching the fruit, acid and oak complexity together in harmony. Drink now or enjoy the development of the wine for another 10-15 years.







Diemersdal

The Journal Pinotage 2018

WO Durbanville Winemaker: Thys Louw AV 14.73, RS 3.3, TA 6, PH 3.5

The Durbanville 26-year-old, trellised dryland Pinotage vines are rooted in deep red Hutton soils on north-facing slopes. Cool growing conditions on exposed aspects sees the fruit develop slowly, drawing maximum variety expression on the vine. The result is tight bunches of small berries, ideal for making wines of structure, elegance and refinement. Carefully hand harvested at 26 Ballina. On a selected component of these grapes, the berries were individually removed and whole berry fermentation took placed in closed 500L French oak rotating barrels. Fermentation was very slow at cooler temperature with twice a day rolling of the barrels. The balance of the grapes was traditionally crushed and fermented. Malolactic fermentation in older French oak barrels before racking. The wine matured for 22 months in 60% new French oak barrels. This resulted in intense and bold red berry flavours with great complexity and savoury spicy notes as well as soft and velvety tannins.





Collectors Reserve Pinotage 2017

WO Durbanville Winemaker: Wilhelm Coetzee AV 14.28, RS 2.4, TA 5.4, PH 3.61

The grapes were selected from a 19-year-old vineyard on the open Westerly side of the valley. The vines are trellised in a vertical shoot positioning system where the canopies naturally stay small, giving good sun exposure to the grapes. The block faces to the West, exposing it to the sun until it sets into the ocean. The soils are fairly deep and of the yellow Clovelly and red Hutton forms, which have a fair amount of clay content for good water retention. The vineyard gives great quality throughout, but there is known spots that are positively different. The selection was made out of these by tasting grapes and chemical analyses to ensure full ripeness. The vinevards were inspected on regular visits to assess skin and seed ripeness, which is of vital importance in making great Pinotage. Picking commenced when the skins were soft and the seeds woody, guaranteeing an absolute absence of greenness and abundance of soft ripe fruit. Hand-picked in 500kg fruit bins. The grapes are handled with minimum intervention and de-stemmed over a sorting table into 15 ton and 800 kg fermenters. Must is left overnight and then 10-15% of its juice is drained to concentrate body, flavour and aroma compounds. The wine is fermented with a preferred yeast strain and continuous timer-regular pump-over cycles as well as punch downs, in combination with compressed air, to extract maximum fruit, colour and tannin. Well integrated wood. Notes of ripe strawberry, raspberry and plum with hints of dark chocolate. Full bodied with silky tannins and concentrated sweet fruit on the pallet. Will age well for 10 years.







Kaapzicht

Pinotage 2018

WO Stellenbosch Winemaker: Danie Steytler AV 14.82, RS 3.4, TA 6.1, PH 3.51

Dark deep depth of black plum with an opulent, slightly reductive nose of black cherry, mulberry and stewed plum. The oak is very subtle and integrated playing to the strengths of the fruit purity and precision emphasising the wines wild edge. Texturally there is impressive focus, balanced finesse and a classy, cool, elegant mouthfeel punctuated with soft supple black fruits and oak spice. This is an impressive expression of this uniquely South African variety. In the vineyard 20-year-old bush vines planted in weathered granite soil. Yield of 4.2 tons per hectare - all dry land, unirrigated. Grapes were picked at full ripeness (25°B), fermented in stainless steel tanks and pumped over 3 - 4 times a day. After a light pressing the Pinotage underwent malolactic fermentation before going into 33% new French oak barrels for 18 months. This Pinotage is accessible now as a treat with cured meats, but will also age comfortably for the next 5 years. Delicious served with barbecued ostrich steaks or springbok fillet.



Pulpit Rock Winery

Brink Family Vineyards Pinotage 2018

WO Swartland Winemaker: Dewald Huisamen AV 15.11, RS 2.9, TA 5.6, PH 3.64

Manual harvesting of grapes. Fermentation occurred in stainless steel tanks at a controlled temperature (24-27°C) with two daily pump-overs and punch downs, extracting color and tannins. After malolactic fermentation is completed in barrel the wine matures another 12 months in a combination of French & American oak barrels. Deep red color. Aromas of blackberries and ripe prunes, with an attractive minerality. Mouth feel shows good volume accompanied by soft ripe tannins. Serving temperature: 18°C. Delicious served with Springbok Carpaccio and traditional Cape Malay cuisine.







Windmeul

The Legend Collection Pinotage 2018

WO Paarl Winemaker: Abraham van Heerden AV 14.53, RS 3.6, TA 5.4, PH 3.59

The Legend Collection Range is Windmeul's Super Premium wine range. This Pinotage is one of the three wines of the range. The Legend Collection is named after Theuns Briers, a formal Windmeul Director and Springbok wing who played test rugby for South Africa during the 1955-1956 tour against the British Lions and New Zealand All Blacks. The Legend Collection Pinotage is a limited, barrel selected wine that showcases the best Pinotage Windmeul can produce. The grapes originate from a 22-year-old bush vine vineyard in the Agter-Paarl. The block is 40km from the ocean with a deep decomposed Malmesbury shale soil. Excellent vineyard practises take place to ensure top quality grapes is produced. The grapes were early morning hand-harvested at 26°B. Two days of cold maceration took place before the wine was inoculated with yeast. The wine fermented between 25-26°C in open stainless-steel tanks with regular punch downs and pump overs. At 3°B the wine was racked from the skins to new 300L French oak barrels were MLF and maturation took place for 18 months. This deep red ruby coloured wine has a complexed nose of cedar, black cherries and dark fruit. On the pallet this full-bodied wine shows layers of ripe red cherries, fruity plums and a good concentration of well-integrated oak with rounded chalky tannins that leaves you with a long lingering dark chocolate after taste. The Legend Collection Pinotage 2018 has got the potential to only improve over time and if stored correctly can be bottle matured for 10 to 15 years.



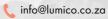


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