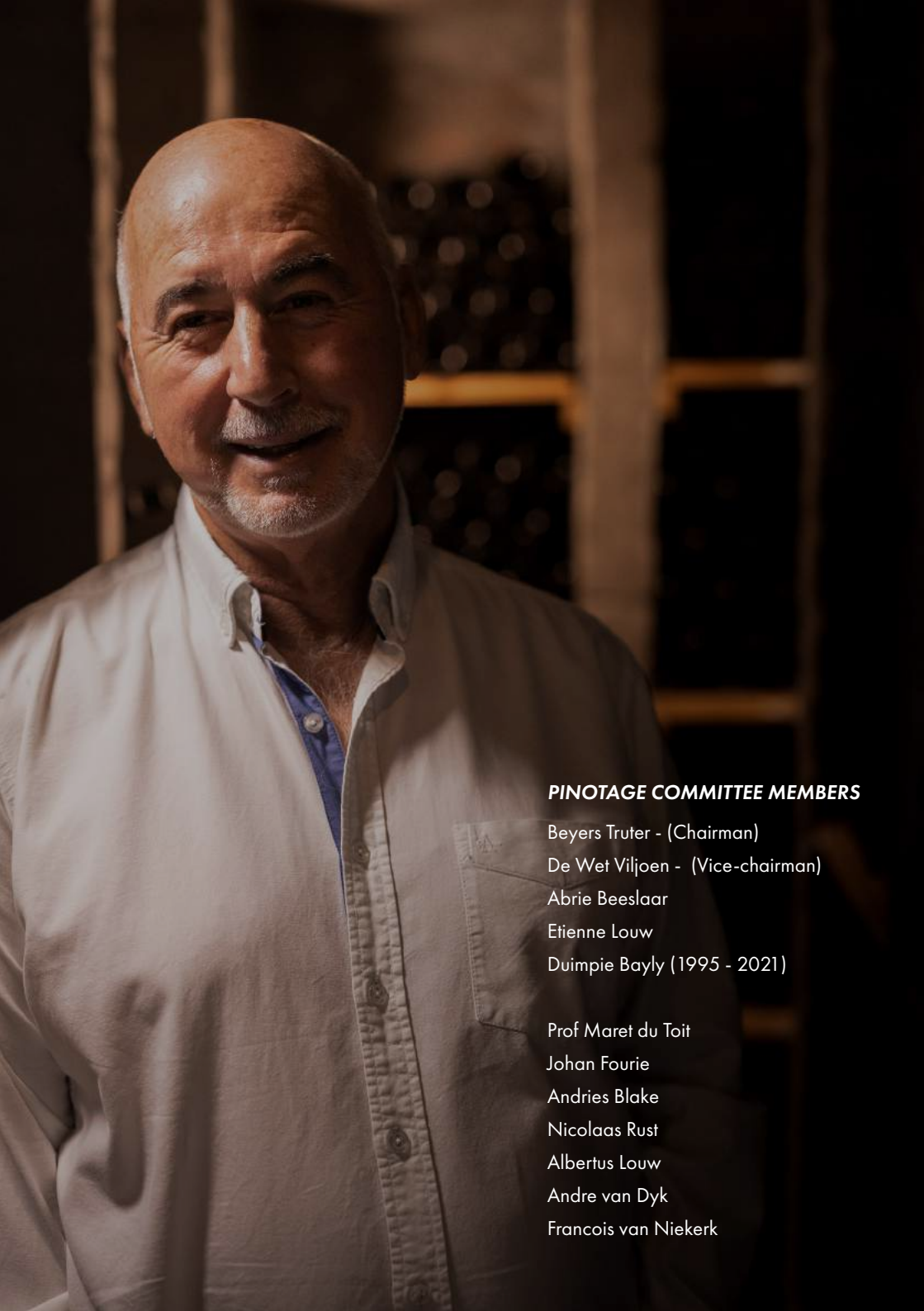




PINOTAGE

2021/2022



PINOTAGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Beyers Truter - (Chairman)

De Wet Viljoen - (Vice-chairman)

Abrie Beeslaar

Etienne Louw

Duimpie Bayly (1995 - 2021)

Prof Maret du Toit

Johan Fourie

Andries Blake

Nicolaas Rust

Albertus Louw

Andre van Dyk

Francois van Niekerk

Chairman's Note

It seems, like yesterday when the Pinotage Association was founded with the objectives to focus on creating quality Pinotage wines, benchmark best practices in the vineyards, marketing of Pinotage to both local and international markets and to increase the price point of Pinotage wines. The establishment of the organisation in 1995, a year, which is still relatively fresh in our minds accounted to numerous factors and achievements of all our Pinotage producers.

By 2021/22, Pinotage is the 7th most planted grape variety, with over 6 570 hectares total area under Pinotage vines. 4 611 590 litres of Pinotage sold domestically, with a drastic increase of 1 9 969 571 litres of Pinotage sold internationally. These figures attest to the fact that both the local and international appetite for Pinotage is growing.

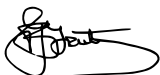
It is with this backdrop that the words of Nelson Mandela, highlights a critical turning point for the Pinotage wine fraternity - "A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special." It is time for the wine fraternity to collectively improve and stimulate the wine economy by educating key people in the value chain. The need for bridging the gap is growing and it is important to rally together in championing this important and necessary objective.

The Pinotage Association has an inclusive development plan to upskill the value chain, this includes - The Pinotage Unplugged training, The Hospitality rotation programme, The Student apprenticeship/ internship practical year and the introduction of a recognition award for viticulturists.

An optimistic future lies ahead for Pinotage, with the first ever classification of a grape variety in South Africa under the auspice of Grand Pinotage being a key milestone on the timeline. To the enhancements of all online experiences from an updated fresh new website, the Pinotage documentary, to sold out Absa Top 10 2021 winning wines (across all winning estates). We celebrate the new year with over 130 entries in the 2022 Absa Top 10 competition of which the winning Top 10 will be announced at an awards ceremony held at Nooitgedacht wine estate, on the 30 August 2022.

All the efforts in elevating Pinotage to the pinnacle grape variety that it is, is made possible through a collaborative, long standing relationship with Absa Bank.

Beyers Truter





For those in pursuit of the iconic

www.grandpinotage.com



Supported by



Soil-searching for fine Pinotage

By Samarie Smith Dipwest

Like all inspiring wine countries globally, indigenous grape varieties are part of a quintessential blend of things to see, taste and experience. For South Africans, Table Mountain is their beacon of ancient soils, its “tablecloth” of cloud the introduction to the Cape’s whimsical weather. And while the smell of Boerewors and Karoo lamb chops on a traditional open fire “braai” sets the scene for local fare, it is not fulfilled until Pinotage anoints the occasion.



Pinotage illustrates South Africa’s prospering wine culture, an indigenous and enigmatic red grape variety proven to excel on the cool slopes of the Constantia Valley, into the heart of Stellenbosch and further afield, without forfeiting its seductive personality.

Tenacity remains the bedrock of the South African wine industry, and visionary individuals sculpted a foundation for Pinotage. By utilizing the best sites, its dynamic progression allowed a host of styles to surface from numerous soil types comprising sand to heavier clay, rocks, sandstone, weathered shale, and decomposed granite. Adaptable as bush vines or trellised vines, dryland farming also enabled old vines to dive into deep soils and sustain healthy vines for this emblematic grape variety to flourish.

Ultimately, a delicate balance of freshness, latent power and depth defines an excellent Pinotage, where the quality of the fruit guides a discerning introduction of oak, proclaiming the complexity to age gracefully without sacrificing its texture, structure, fruit purity and lucid colour.

Yet, unlike other cultivars, timing is its unforgiving nemesis. A small picking window leaves little room for error, with a rapid fermentation of three to five days demanding scrupulous attention in the cellar. The same goes for sensible extraction techniques,

the time it needs to age and the optimal drinking time that will awake the finer indelible qualities. Pinotage stalwart and Kanonkop cellar master Abrie Beeslaar confesses that it takes longer to master Pinotage than any other varietal.

“It is a variety with a thick skin like Cabernet Sauvignon, which has a ripening window of 45-50 days. However, Pinotage only needs 20-25 days between veraison to when it’s ripe. Planning is vital.”

As the gatekeeper of classicism, the 2015 vintage of their Estate Pinotage received 95 points in the Gilbert & Gaillard International Challenge, a wine that can effortlessly age another 30-40 years.

“People should be less concerned about what constitutes a typical Pinotage and concentrate on what substantiates quality. For me, structure, texture, and persistence come first. The character of Pinotage will follow suit, but people searching for quality don’t always have a reference for Pinotage.”

“Diversity needs to be valued, but winemakers need to let the soil guide them in stylistic decisions.”

Adamant to showcase the versatility of Pinotage, Abrie utilized a block outside Kanonkop in 2005 under his Beeslaar brand, illustrating how soil drives style despite the vineyards being only three kilometres apart.



Made from bush vines growing on shale, the Beeslaar Pinotage 2019 (93 points) portrays Pinotage's perfumed side while Kanonkop's bush vines thrive on granite synonymous with intense, dark fruit and a firm tannin density.

"Diversity needs to be valued, but winemakers need to let the soil guide them in stylistic decisions."

A fierce commitment to Pinotage awarded another Stellenbosch Estate's wine, the Neethlingshof Owl Post Pinotage 2020, with 92 points.

"The big shift came about when winemakers started to allow the wine to be expressive of its different terroirs," explains Neethlingshof winemaker De Wet Viljoen. "Its future is bright, constantly performing and outperforming wines from around the globe."

The late Prof Eben Archer triggered Viljoen's passion for Pinotage.

"He told us to respect the vine, work sustainably and treat it as if it was one of your children. I have adopted that motto to produce the best possible wine."

"Pinotage thrives under this new aesthetic regime, which accounts significantly for the renaissance of the variety."

Clearly, Pinotage possesses the uncanny ability to express site with new generation winemakers bringing a keen understanding of the aesthetics of fine wine as demonstrated by the trusty Simonsberg to new frontiers like Walker Bay, Skurfberg and Piekenierskloof.

"It is as if the "ball and chain" association with the old South African wine industry has finally been struck off," says Anthony Hamilton-Russell from Hamilton-Russell Vineyards in the Hemelen-Aarde Valley.

"We haven't had the luxury of centuries of French flair legitimizing the grape for us. However, our younger, more confident, new generation of winemakers are not only up to this but relish the challenge. Pinotage thrives under this new aesthetic regime, which accounts significantly for the renaissance of the variety."

Beyers Truter, a trailblazer for Pinotage, reminisces about the first meeting in 1995 when the South African Pinotage Association was established. "Since then, Pinotage has taken phenomenal leaps in quality and viticulture that brought the grape in sync with world trends," says Truter. He recalls how limited experience with Pinotage in the '80s led to misconstrued interpretations of the cultivar.

"Unsure about the best way to guide this juvenile variety into what it wants to be, an organic compound known as isoamyl acetate imparted unwanted aromas at lower fermentation temperatures that were not an innate character of the grape itself. But our collective tenacity has paid off, and vital knowledge that was passed on has elevated Pinotage to a whole new level."

Truter's Pinotage pilgrimage included winning the trophy for Best Winemaker in the World at the International Wine and Spirits Competition in 1991 with the Kanonkop Pinotage 1989 to recently handing the baton to his son Anri, continuing their Pinotage victory at their family estate Beyerskloof. The Beyerskloof Diesel 2019 scored 94 points, applauded by the panel for its purity and complexity.

"I have never seen regionality expressed in so many flavours than any other cultivar. Pinotage is our value proposition, and the world's perception is very positive."

With Pinotage celebrating its centenary in 2025, South Africa launched its first Pinotage classification under the auspices of Grand Pinotage in 2020. Madame May-Eliane de Lencquesaing, the owner of Glenelly and

"Pinotage is our value proposition, and the world's perception is very positive."

former owner of Château Pichon Longueville Lalande in Bordeaux, corroborates that Grand Pinotage champions South Africa as the great wine-producing country that it is.

"Grand Pinotage is a collection that has set a new precedent for Pinotage. Its heroic insistence on survival makes its status as South Africa's heritage grape seem not fortuitous but fated."

The history of a charismatic cultivar

Pinotage is a tale of happenstance, heralded by Stellenbosch University Professor Abraham Izak Perold in 1925, who was vigilant about diversifying the Cape's viticultural offering and crossed Pinot Noir and Cinsault (locally referred to as Hermitage – hence the name Pinotage). Then, by mere serendipity in 1935, university lecturer Dr. Charlie Niehaus cycled past Perold's prior Welgevallen residence. Noticing the overgrown garden, aware of the crossings Perold had planted there, he rescued four Pinotage seedlings from imminent shovels.

Six years later, wine lecturer CT de Waal made the first Pinotage in 1941 at Elsberg. Knowing his fellow Pinotage pioneers in the vineyards and on the rugby field, De Waal (on his family farm Uiterwyk), PK Morkel (on Bellevue) and Paul Sauer (on Kanonkop) planted the country's first commercial Pinotage.

Other red cultivars stepped aside at the annual Young Wine Show (then known as the Cape Wine Show), awarding current vintage unbottled wines. Bellevue's Pinotage won the General Smuts Trophy for the best wine overall in 1959, and the Kanonkop Pinotage took the trophy home in 1961. As they were contracted to do in those days, this 1959 Pinotage was sold to Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery (now Distell) and sold as Lanzerac Pinotage 1959.

Lanzerac winemaker Wynand Lategan adds that Pinotage producers are now confident about developing their own style and pushing the envelope. "The magic is to get the balance right and refine your style."

"The magic is to get the balance right and refine your style."

Dirkie Morkel, the viticulturist at Bellevue, kept the original newspaper clippings when his uncle PK Morkel (a Springbok rugby player) won the legendary trophy with his Pinotage. Since then, with winemaker Wilhelm Kritzinger, the estate never became complacent, with three of their Pinotages faring brilliantly in Gilbert & Gaillard's assessment. Leading the pack, the Bellevue Reserve Pinotage 2017 received 93 points for its beguiling complexity and purity of fruit.

A pinnacle era for Pinotage

With the advancement in viticulture, technology, and knowledge, it was inevitable that Pinotage, as part of South Africa's cultural heritage, would soar. Where two oceans collide at the tip of Africa, a

treacherous coastline will naturally equate to a rocky start but not prevent such a characterful indigenous grape variety from welling up as a forerunner of individuality and quality. The Old and the New World were merged from two distinctly different grape varieties. Its duality gave birth to exemplary fruit expression, elegantly poised on sculpted acidity with the judicious use of oak adding spice and definition. Yet today, it confidently stands its ground without necessary reference to its ancestry, apart from providing context to those new to Pinotage. Consistent quality has steered it in a proper direction with a tailwind of positive reviews signalling smooth sailing for many more centuries to come.

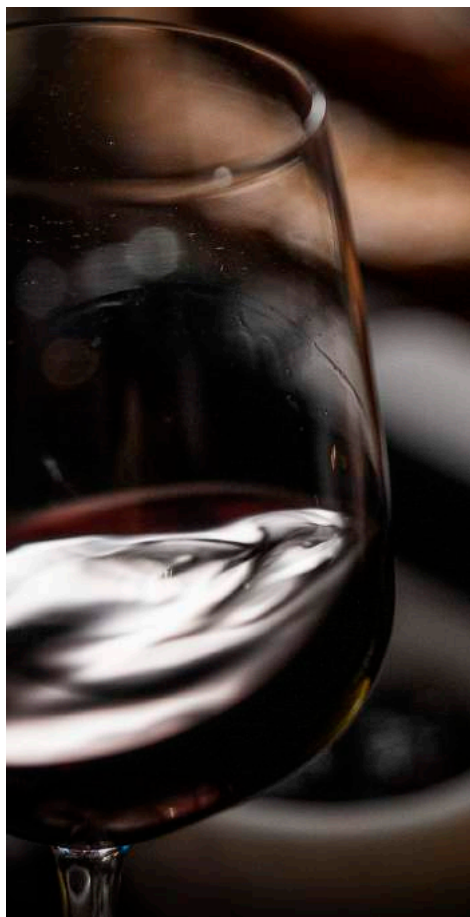
An ode to regionality

Quality through healthy vineyards remains the mantra of Flagstone Winery, harnessing altitude and diurnal temperature ranges for optimum colour, fruit, and physiological ripeness.

Head winemaker Gerhard Swart says: "Working with Pinotage from warmer and cooler regions taught me how multifaceted this grape is. Regionality always triumphs, allowing me the freedom to use a combination of French, Hungarian and American oak for our respective styles.

Groot Constantia is one of the few producers of Pinotage in a cooler wine-growing region where wines show remarkable restraint in these ripening conditions. n be bottled separately. According to its cellarmaster, Boela Gerber, the varietal produces intense and forward fruit wines, as evident in tasting their Groot Constantia Pinotage 2019 (94 points).

Durbanville Hills cellarmaster Martin Moore concurs that the proximity to the ocean enables Pinotage to retain its elegance.



"Many lessons were learned by being sagaciously decisive about open canopies and planting directions to invite sunlight throughout a block. I have learned to regularly taste for ripeness and not fall back on analysis when working with cool climate Pinotage."

Their Collectors Reserve Range aptly connects consumers to the Cape Town culture, boasting

prominent landmarks on the labels, The Promenade Pinotage 2019 (92 points) featured with the much-loved seafront promenade.

The diversity of styles

Stylistically, Pinotage has elicited strikingly different opinions and preferences, which concluded that different styles need to be embraced. At the same time, fine Pinotage will always be prudent of terroir and not chasing trends.

Shaun Page, marketing manager at Rickety Bridge, says a preference for lighter style red wines was another point of entry for Pinotage into the market. "And explaining the parentage of Pinotage remains a good point of departure for us," adds Donovan Ackermann, winemaker at Rickety Bridge. "Consumers relate better to Pinotage if you explain that they can expect the tannin of Pinot noir and the bountiful fruit of Cinsault."

Even the controversial "coffee" Pinotage has paid its dues. Hate it or love it, says Rudiger Gretschel, technical director of Vinimark, who believes Bertus Fourie (who pioneered this style at Diemersfontein in Wellington) created a style that opened an arena for Pinotage to be recognised. Adding another colour to the Rainbow Nation, this much-debated style continues to percolate into previously non-wine drinking SA households, with a solid following in the United Kingdom and Northern America.

Gretschel also pursued his own project in the Piekenierskloof with his Sangiro Pinotage.

"Expect a harsh, unirrigated yet holistically dreamy environment where Pinotage vines reap the benefits of sandstone soils, cool breezes and altitude (600m above sea level), resulting in a lighter, linear style with high natural acidity."



“Now we also create serious Pinotage.”

Francois Roode joined Diemersfontein as winemaker 18 years ago and has since seen many faces of a varietal “that can give Cabernet Sauvignon a run for its money. Now we also create serious Pinotage. Changing seasons required a paradigm shift with stylistic adjustments, leading to better canopy and water management and planting to heat-resistant rootstock.”

Riaan Möller, winemaker at Lievland and Man Family Wines, remains in awe of Pinotage’s versatility.” The Lievland Pinotage 2020 (91 points) was created from two blocks. The low-lying Agter-Paarl block has its heart anchored in shale, producing aromatic aromas. The Paardeberg vineyard grows on granite which adds grip and tannin. If you stay involved throughout the process, you will experience excellence.”

The future of Pinotage

L’Avenir means future, which is also the message this estate wants to bring across with Pinotage. Its Advini chapter started when the winemaker Dirk Coetzee convinced the new French owners that its quality stretches beyond the limited vision of “just another hybrid.”

Its owners subsequently bought into a property and a cultivar they knew very little about, tells Edo Heyns, Strategic Development and Marketing Director at Advini South Africa.

“It intrigued them to deal with a quality cultivar that originated outside of France.”

A fundamental mind shift is palpable in the way consumers react to Pinotage when presented in international tastings as a fine wine, Heyns continues, evoking excitement as something authentically South African with the ability to masterly express terroir.

“Until now, little emphasis was put on climate and soil types, and this contributes to Pinotage’s intrinsic qualities to stand beside world-class red wines, channelling the conversation to the world’s best sommeliers and opinion makers.”

When Pinotage enters the conversation, quality is unequivocal. Its merit persists in an enormous spectrum of styles keeping the world engaged. Be it an elegant Provence-inspired style, a whimsical and fruity wine like Beaujolais, echoing Chateauneuf-du-Pape in a blend with Mediterranean varieties or rubbing shoulders with the power of St. Joseph, Pinotage has risen as a raconteur and a dignitary example of fine wine on the world’s wine podium.



Winetech funded project:

Screening for potentially novel Pinotage clones generated through irradiance mutagenesis

Researcher: Phyllis Burger

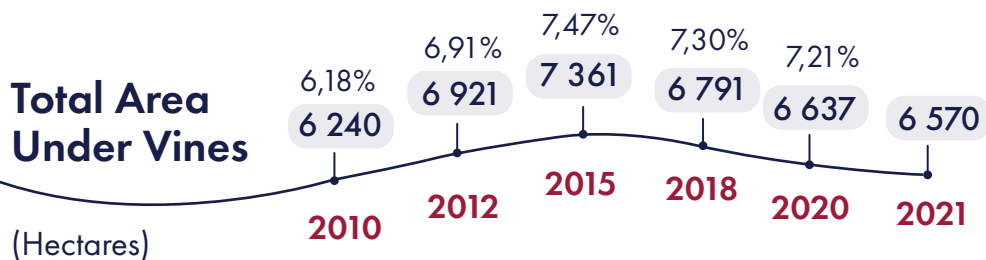
The aim of this project is to screen and phenotype new Pinotage plants that were generated in a pilot study that focused on developing methods to induce mutations. The intention is that the mutations could lead to potentially novel clones.

A phased approach will be followed where the initial screening will occur in tunnels or greenhouses to identify a smaller subset with desirable traits that will eventually be transplanted to the 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 cultivars) normally arise through natural mutations and there are numerous examples, especially in very old cultivars that were widely grown in diverse conditions. 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.

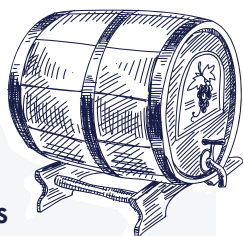
Pinotage Overview 2021



2020

Domestic Total Litres

4 611 590



Total Vines

19 719 810
6570,38 ha

Red Vines

16,33%
16,17% ha

Age Distribution (Hectares)

133

> 40 Years

51

31 - 40 Years

2 678

> 20 Years

395

16 - 20 Years

741

11 - 15 Years

1 997

4 - 10 Years

576

< 4 Years

Geographic Distribution (Hectares)

67

Cape South Coast

40

Northern Cape

33

Klein Karoo

1198

Stellenbosch

543

Olifants River

408

Worcester

764

Robertson

1287

Paarl

887

Breedekloof

1343

Swartland

Exports

2020

	Packaged	Bulk	Total
CHINA	-	356 930	1 135 525
DENMARK	52 889	407 540	460 429
FRANCE	55 049	218 280	273 329
GERMANY	-	5 441 240	6 136 678
POLAND	77 657	239 020	316 677
RUSSIA	-	23 920	1 691 498
SWEDEN	-	-	418 452
UNITED KINGDOM	-	2 489 105	4 714 559
USA	-	176 960	589 296
ALL COUNTRIES		9 801 295	18 274 497

2021

BELGIUM	130 097	23 920	152 017
CANADA	71 307	-	71 307
DENMARK	69 046	194 800	263 846
GERMANY	520 179	-	-
SWEDEN	291 907	24 020	315 927
THE NETHERLANDS	328 970	-	328 970
USA	472 507	457 320	929 827
ALL COUNTRIES	8 138 113	11 831 458	19 969 571

Statistics by SAWIS

% Pinotage in Wine Region

8,3	Olifants River
11,6	Robertson
0,5	Klein Karoo
13,5	Breedekloof
0,6	Northern Cape
18,2	Stellenbosch
1,0	Cape South Coast
19,6	Paarl
6,2	Worcester
20,4	Swartland



Absa Top 10 Pinotage Competition



A proudly South African wine contest, the Absa Top 10 Pinotage Competition rates and reviews wines of this cultivar based on one important criterion: quality. South Africa has a rich heritage of winemaking that dates back to 1659 and has earned its place as one of the best wine-producing countries. For the past quarter of a century, Absa and the Pinotage Association have worked together to host this competition. The judging panel they have assembled comprises astute industry experts, whose task is to identify 10 wines that can set the standard for the development of distinctive South African Pinotage wines.



Pinotage Rosé Competition

A relatively new addition, in 2022 marking its fourth year, this competition presents an exciting challenge to local winemakers. The focus on rosé is a fitting enhancement of the overall competition and brings greater awareness to the various expressions of the grape. Reflecting the growing value and popularity of Pinotage rosé wines, this competition reiterates the vision of the contest as a whole: to illustrate the uniqueness of Pinotage in the international wine world while supporting various styles.





Perold Absa Cape Blend Competition

Named in honour of the viticulturist who developed Pinotage, this category focuses on various Pinotage-oriented wines. Cape Blend describes a blended red wine that has Pinotage as its major component. The Perold Absa Cape Blend Competition annually identifies five such wines that demonstrate quality and style, and year by year shows an increase in the number of entries and participating producers. It is a showcase of the best expression of wines with Pinotage as the base and the award-winners claim the admiration of both wine masters and enthusiasts locally and internationally.





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It is specialised asset financing that caters for the long-term nature of solar investments. What's more, we can also lend against the asset and related cash flows.

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Financing offered

Absa offers a range of bespoke financing options tailored to fit your needs, while a project's cash flow and financial requirements are taken into consideration.

Absa's Green Asset Finance product allows for the investment into solar to link to terms of 5 to 7 years, while funding through a Renewable Energy Term Loan enables the bank to lend up to 10 years, with funding of up to 100% of the cost of the project. Importantly, we lend against the assets and its cash flows without requiring additional security, structuring the loan such that it often results in a positive impact on cash flow over time.

Deciding on an installer

Finding a credible solar supplier is incredibly important as this decision will impact the installation quality in terms of meeting acceptable industry standards. When deciding on your solar supplier, we suggest taking the below into account.

The supplier should have:

An established and proven track record with the technical capability, know-how and experience to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) solution to meet your energy requirement.

An understanding of Eskom's regulation, municipal by-laws, and the NERSA registration process.

Electricians employed or subcontracted that are qualified with proof of registration (a wireman's license).

Service level agreements in the form of after-sales services and maintenance contracts that must be offered.

Following a site visit, the installer should be able to produce a simulation or feasibility study of the electricity production estimate for the system for a year, incorporating the average weather at the site, and advise on the size of the components needed (solar panels, inverter, and batteries) to meet consumption requirements.

The necessary warranties and guarantees for the installation and the various components of the system must be provided, this includes the solar panels, inverter, battery, and the structure of the system.

After completion, a Certificate of Compliance (COC) must be completed and signed off by a qualified electrician and certified by a professional engineer.

Upskilling and Development Plans for Pinotage

Practical Experience for Hospitality Personnel

Period: 2-3 days

The practical upskilling of hospitality industry personnel who are responsible for the promotion and sales of wine brands between the estate and the consumer. Qualifying criterion for this short practical course (2-3 Days) will be anyone that is in the hospitality industry – waiters, front of house, managers of restaurant, butlers at lodgers, etc. The personnel will be hosted by Pinotage Association members for a period of 2 days. The 2 day program will include a short introductory course to Pinotage, a physical and practical experience in viniculture and viticulture, in the vineyard and in the cellar. A tasting of Pinotage wines and a discussion around how to identify faults in wine, i.e., Oxidation; V/A and Corked wines.

Requirements from our members



To host a group of hospitality staff for 2-3 Days

Present a short course or arrange with the Pinotage Association to present – Pinotage Unplugged

A half day in the vineyard explaining vineyard practises

A half day in the cellar explaining winemaking practises

A tutor tasting to identify faults in wine

For more information on the requirements and qualifying criteria contact the Pinotage Association.

Student Apprenticeship Practical Year

Period: 12 months

To give students that achieved their Diploma / Degree in Viti or Viniculture the opportunity to receive practical experience with a Pinotage Association member in the vineyards and cellar. The practical will be one year full season / year and will focus on the following viniculture and viticulture, business and financial practices and marketing. After the year, the student will have to complete a thesis at least 6 000 words with the focus on experience received, suggestions and improvements. The benefit will be for both the participants – the student practical experience and the wine farm or cellar receives an apprentice for a year.

Requirements from our members



Host a student on the apprenticeship program for 12 months
(or until the student finds permanent employment)

Offer practical experience from cellar to front of house / tasting room

Quarterly progress reporting feedback

Viniculture and Viticulture Competition

Period: Annually

In most wine competitions emphasis is placed on the winemaker – the saying that the best or good wine is made in the vineyard leaves an opening for us not only to reward the best Pinotage viticulturists – which also entails better quality grapes, vineyard practices, understanding of the terroir for the best Pinotage's. This will also place emphasis on viticulturist and the necessity to appoint qualified personal in the viticulture field. This competition will also create an opportunity for more people to aspire to pursue careers in viticulture but also for current viticulturist to get more exposure and recognition for the splendid work in creating excellent Pinotage wines.

Requirements from our members



Enter a nomination

Accept a potential student to work as an assistance with the winner



MEET OUR 2021

ABSA TOP 10 PINOTAGE WINNERS





In association with



2021 Winner

Beeslaar

Pinotage 2018

WO Stellenbosch

Winemaker: Abrie Beeslaar

AV 14.18, RS 2.6, TA 5.5, PH 3.58

The fruit originated from a single vineyard with 26-year-old dryland from bush vines growing in shale, decomposed granite and Oakleaf soils in the Simonsberg region of Stellenbosch. Handpicked grapes were destemmed, sorted and fermented in open top concrete fermenters at 28°C. The skins were punched down by hand, every two hours during fermentation. The juice was drawn off the skins after three days. Malolactic fermentation and maturation took place for 19 months in 225l French oak barrels (50% new and 50% 2nd fill). Concentrated aromas of black cherries, Christmas cake, wild strawberries, plums and cinnamon spice. The nose has that typical Beeslaar perfumed character, with an underlying earthy tone. Beautifully poised and elegant, with fine tannins to support the broad, plush fruit spectrum. The wine is mouth filling and effortlessly balanced on the palate, with lingering savoury notes on the finish.







In association with



2021 Winner

Beyerskloof

Diesel Pinotage 2018

WO Stellenbosch

Winemaker: Anri Truter

AV 14.65, RS 2.5, TA 5.8, PH 3.47

Grapes were hand-harvested early in February from bush vines situated in the Bottelary hills area of Stellenbosch. Optimum ripeness for picking was at 26°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 four to five days. Grapes were pressed before fermentation finished and malolactic fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks. Wine went into new French oak barrels for 17 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 a lasting finish. The wine will age superbly for 10 years or longer.







In association with



2021 Winner

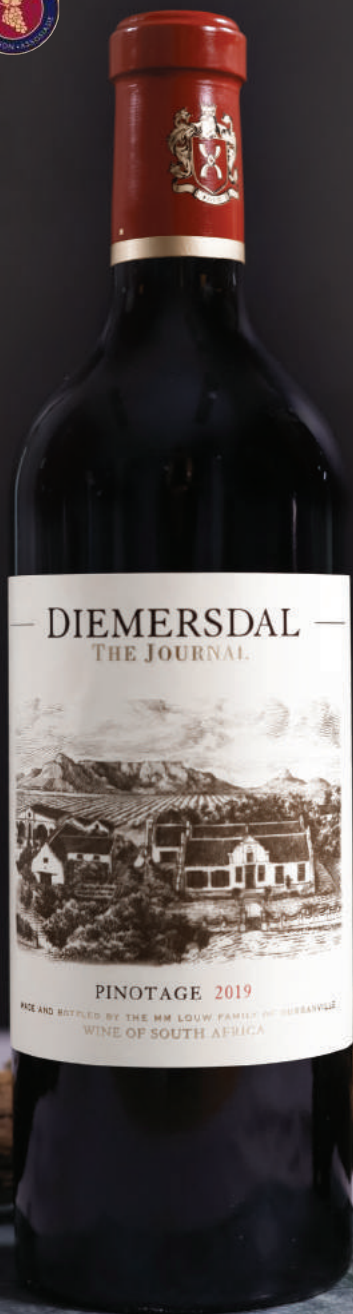
Diemersdal

The Journal Pinotage 2019

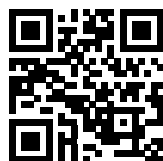
WO Durbanville

Winemaker: Thys Louw

AV 14.68, RS 2.2, TA 5.6, PH 3.64



The Durbanville 45-year-old Pinotage bush vines are grown under dryland conditions and rooted in deep red Hutton soils on north-facing slopes. Cool growing conditions on exposed aspects see 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 Balling. The grapes are crushed and fermented in one-ton open French oak "kuipe" at 25-28C. Malolactic fermentation in older French oak barrels before racking. The wine matured for 22 months in 100% 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.







In association with



2021 Winner

Flagstone

Writer's Block Pinotage 2018

WO Breedekloof

Winemaker: Gerhard Swart

AV 14.68, RS 3.1, TA 5.8, PH 3.41

This wine is crafted from a 19-year-old single vineyard block high in the Waaihoek Mountains, above the Breedekloof valley. This is the highest vineyard in the area, planted 700m above sea level in ancient, decomposed shale with specs of granite quarts. Grapes were handpicked at an average of 25-26°B. A combination of whole and crushed berries was cold soaked for five days in open-top stainless-steel fermenters. The juice was inoculated with different cultured yeasts and fermented dry. Six to seven punch downs per day were done during active fermentation. The wine was matured for 16 months in 65% American, 30% French and 5% Hungarian oak (35% new wood). On the nose ripe, dark red fruit and Indian spice wrapped up in soft, comforting hints of mocha chocolate. This wine has a big structure and will age gracefully over the next 7-10 years.







In association with



2021 Winner

Francois van Niekerk

Pinotage 2019

WO Coastal Region

Winemaker: Francois van Niekerk

AV 14.83, RS 1.9, TA 6.0, PH 3.54

Grapes come from two 27-year-old dryland bush vine vineyards, one in Paarl and one in Wellington, both planted on a slight southeastern slope. Handpicked grapes were destemmed, sorted and fermented in open top fermenters at 27°C. The cap was punched down every two hours during fermentation. The juice was drawn off the skins after five days. After fermentation, the wine was transferred to 225l French oak barrels. Malolactic fermentation took place in a combination of 70% new and 30% second fill barrels. The wine was matured for 24 months in barrel. Layered aromas of soft blueberries and fresh cherries are underpinned by delicious hints of spice and vanilla pod, producing an elegant balance between oak and fruit. Enticing ruby red in colour, the wine is rounded and surprisingly smooth with a velvety finish. The spicy vanilla and oaky notes follow through on the palate, giving weight to the flavour profile wrapped up in aromas of raspberries and dark plums.


FRANCOIS
VAN NIEKERK

PINOTAGE 2019







In association with



2021 Winner

Koelenhof

Stellenbosch 1679 Pinotage 2019

WO Stellenbosch

Winemakers: Nicholas Husselman
& Handré Visagie

AV 14.79, RS 3.1, TA 5.5, PH 3.67

The Stellenbosch 1679 Pinotage 2019 is full bodied with a dark red colour. Made from 21-year old Pinotage vines, predominantly Tukulu and Dresden soils on the base of the shale. Smaller berries, with an excellent colour and flavour intensity, were harvested at optimum phenolic ripeness. Low rainfall, drier ripening season with cooler nights and warm, dry days during picking contributed to the quality of the grapes. The wine spend seven days on skins in rotor fermenters at 25°C, spent 14 months in new 225 and 300l French Oak barrels. Aromas of blackberry and white pepper accompanied by dark cherry fruit and mocha are prominent on the palate. This excellent 2019 vintage will peak from mid-2020 to 2025 when tertiary aromas will start to develop.







In association with



2021 Winner

Môreson

Widow Maker 2018

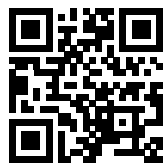
WO Stellenbosch

Winemaker: Clayton Reabow

AV 15.03, RS 2.1, TA 5.6, PH 3.57



All grapes are selected from specific vineyard parcels which are hand harvested and cooled overnight. Bunches are de-stemmed by our automated de-stemming and sorting unit. Instead of crushing the berries, the berries are rather perforated with our cyclone crusher using centrifugal force to rupture the skin wall. Fermentation commences in open plastic fermenters with no cold soaking, as to avoid pyrazine extraction. The must is inoculated with yeast and fermented until dryness, with manual punch downs and pump overs at regular intervals. After a short post fermentation maceration, the wine is drained and skins pressed. The press fraction is kept separate to the free run fraction and transferred to barrel where the wine undergoes MLF. Maturation in French oak barrels lasted 20 months before racking and blending the components







In association with



2021 Winner

Neethlingshof

Estate Pinotage 2020

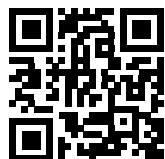
WO Stellenbosch

Winemaker: De Wet Viljoen

AV 13.89, RS 3.3, TA 5.3, PH 3.71



The grapes were sourced from 21-year-old south-east facing vineyards. Grown in deep red soil at 125 m above sea level, the vines are trellised on a five-wire vertical Perold system and irrigated by means of drip system. The grapes were harvested by hand at 26 balling mid-February with a yield of 11 tons per hectare. Fermentation in rotation tanks took place at 26° to 28°C over seven days. After malolactic fermentation the wine was matured in a combination of French (60%) and American (40%) oak, with 40% in new barrels for a period of nine months. Strict VEGAN guidelines were adhered to during the entire farming and winemaking process. The wine is deep ruby in colour and has aromas of ripe red plum, black cherry, cloves and a hint of sweet tobacco. A full-bodied wine with flavours of plum, toasted coconut and dark chocolate with a good tannic backbone coming through on the palate. Excellent served with red meat dishes and vegetables topped with flavorful sauces such a teriyaki, plum or barbecue sauce.







In association with



2021 Winner

Stellenrust

Cornerstone Pinotage 2019

WO Stellenbosch

Winemakers: Tertius Boshoff

AV 14.78, RS 3.8, TA 5.3, PH 3.71

Grapes for this wine are harvested from 53 year old bush vine from the Bottelary property of Stellenrust. It is picked between 25 and 26 Balling, crushed and allowed cold maceration for 24 – 48 hours. The juice is inoculated with French yeast strains and fermented in open concrete tanks with manual punch down of the cap every two hours for another four to five days. The wine is then drained from the skins and further fermentation takes place in stainless steel tanks. After fermentation has completed, it is matured in 100% French oak over a period of 12 months. The Cornerstone Pinotage offers raspberry, ripe peach and black cherry flavours with subtle oak nuances, a warm succulent palate and delicate lingering sweet and sour finish with lifted acidity. Drink now or keep for 10 years.

SINCE 1988
Stellenrust
Corner Stone
PINOTAGE







In association with



2021 Winner

Wellington Wines

La Cave Pinotage 2018

WO Wellington

Winemaker: Francois van Niekerk

AV 14.06, RS 4.1, TA 5.7, PH 3.60

The grapes come from a 27-year-old bush vine vineyard near Wellington and were hand-harvested on 5 February at 26 balling. After cold soaking overnight the grapes were inoculated with yeast and fermentation took place at 27 °C in open top fermenters for five days with punch downs every two hours. The wine was racked to new 225L French oak barrels where malolactic fermentation took place. Total time spend in barrel was 18 months. Soft blueberry and cherry notes are supported by hints of spice and vanilla pod showing and excellent balance between oak and fruit. On the palate, the wine is rounded and velvety and shows finesse. The spicy vanilla and oaky notes follow through on the palate, giving weight to the flavor profile which is refined by raspberry and plum notes.





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.

1925



1930

1935

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

1940



1941

The first Pinotage was made by CT de Waal

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

1943

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

1950

1959

1960

1970

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

1973

In 1991 word **Beyers Truter** as Internasionale Wynmaker van die Jaar benoem en Pinotage geniet roem regoor die wêreld.

1980

1990

1991

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.

The Pinotage Association is founded.

1995

1997

2000

2010

The first classification of a South African variety - Grand Pinotage.

2020

Pinotage turns 100!

2025



Pinotage Events Calendar 2022

21 July

AGM

30 August

Absa Top 10 Pinotage Awards

28 September

Absa Perold Cape Blend and Rose Awards

8 October

Pinotage day

6 December

Pinotage Golf Day





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