



Pinotage Unplugged

with Harry Melck

— Session Number One: An Epic Story



The South African Context

South Africa is the oldest wine producing region outside of Europe.

Over **360 years** since our first wine was made in 1659.

Older than Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile, United States, Canada, India and China.



The South African Context

South Africa has a diverse wine landscape:

- Terrain
- Water
- Climate
- Winemaking
- Cultures, history and stories

And so we can make a diverse range of wines.



The South African Context

Yet with our diversity we are getting known for our specialisations:

- Regionality of wines
- Chenin Blanc
- **PINOTAGE**



Crossing Grapes

Where one variety pollinates another variety and the offspring is a completely different variety.

Most varieties are as result of Crossing grapes.

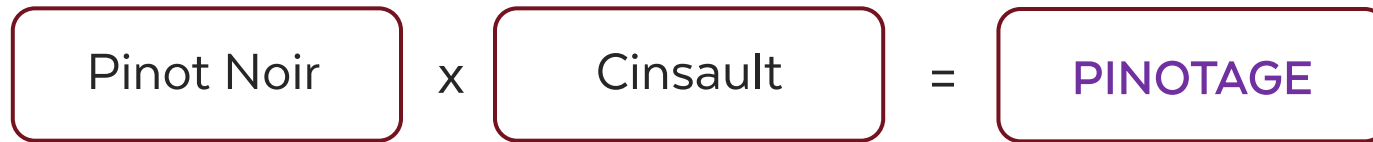


Usually in nature but also done intentionally.



The Creation of Pinotage

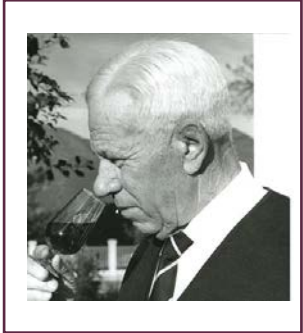
In 1925 Prof. Perold crossed Pinot Noir x Cinsault
(Hermitage) to make Pinotage.



'Father' of Pinotage

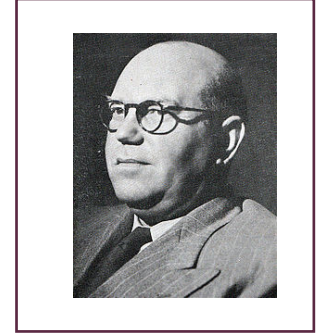


The Creation of Pinotage



1935 - Dr Charlie Niehaus saves the 4 plants

1941 - Prof. C.T. de Waal makes first wine at Stellenbosch University

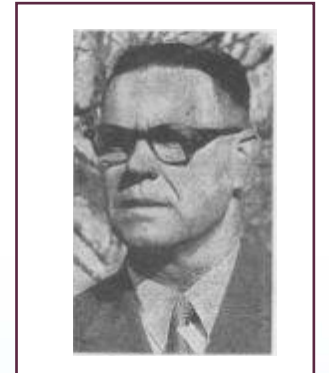
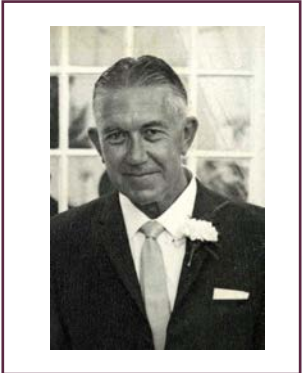


1943 - 1st Commercial plantings - Myrtle Grove

1950's - C.T. de Waal/Paul Sauer/P.K. Morkel plant Pinotage

1959/61 - Bellevue and Kanonkop win awards respectively

1961 - First commercial 'Lanzerac' Pinotage (1959 vintage)



The Trails and Tribulations

Positives

Pinotage is created

First wine made

Pinotage wins awards

Pinotage planted

Quality focus by 'Pinotageers'

End of apartheid

International awards

Negatives

Plants almost destroyed

Overproduction

Poor quality

British Masters 'rusty nails'

TERROIR driven Pinotage



Pioneer Winemakers of Pinotage

Jan 'Boland' Coetzee

Rugby, 1st Pinotage @ Kanonkop, Terroir focus

Beyers Truter

Awards, '91 IWSC Best Winemaker, Pinotage Association

Francois Naude

Chemist, Brand Ambassador, 7 ABSA Top 10s, Le Vin de Francois

Abrie Beeslaar

'05/'15/'18 IWSC Best Winemaker

Duimpie Bayly

60 years in wine, 2018 Pinotage ambassador award, Pinotage Association

