



Mullineux

A benchmark South African Syrah, Granite 2021 delivers subtle power and complexity, weaving florals, spice, and stony precision into a long, finely etched finish.



Syrah Granite 2021

Swartland, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

The Mullineux Granite Syrah originates from the **Paardeberg in Swartland**, a region widely regarded as one of South Africa's most dynamic wine-growing areas. Known for its **ancient decomposed granitic soils**, the Paardeberg produces wines of finesse and aromatic lift, contrasting with the denser, darker Syrahs from schist or iron soils in the region. These well-drained soils force the vines to delve deeply for water, imparting a distinctive freshness and linearity to the wine.

The vineyard sites are composed of **low-yielding bush vines** rooted in weathered granite. This soil type is renowned for giving Syrah a fine tannin texture and lifted aromatics, often reminiscent of red fruit, florals and subtle spice. The 2021 vintage benefitted from fair weather, which preserved the natural balance of acidity and ripeness, producing fruit with **clarity, tension, and subtle complexity**. With only 6,480 bottles made, this is a true single-terroir expression of Swartland's unique geology.

Winemaking

Mullineux works with a philosophy of **minimal intervention** to allow terroir to shine. Grapes were hand-harvested in the cool of the morning at **low yields of 5 tons/ha**, ensuring concentration and purity. Whole bunches were placed in **500L French oak open-top fermenters** and crushed by foot, encouraging a gentle extraction. Fermentation proceeded with **indigenous yeasts**, highlighting the authentic character of the site.

Post-fermentation, the wine spent **three weeks on skins** for further refinement of tannins. It was then gravitationally drained and matured for **12 months in 500L French oak barrels (50% new)** followed by **10 months in large 2000L foudre**, a choice that softens oak influence while preserving freshness. Bottled in December 2022, the wine was given an additional eight months of bottle ageing before release, ensuring integration and early drinkability while retaining its long ageing potential.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Syrah



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with purple hues, reflecting both youth and concentration.
- **Aroma:** Perfumed notes of white lily, red berries, and subtle spice, underpinned by graphite and a mineral lift from the granite soils.
- **Palate:** Red berry compote layered with pink peppercorn, dried flowers and exotic spice. The tannins are fine and chalky, with a subtle sanguine edge and a lingering, stony finish of great precision.

Did you know?

The Mullineux estate is celebrated for its "Soil Series" Syrahs - Granite, Schist and Iron - each crafted to showcase the **impact of soil on Syrah expression**. Granite is always the most perfumed and elegant of the trio, prized for its lifted aromatics and tension, whereas Schist shows power and structure, and Iron brings depth and darker fruit.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck breast with cherry glaze** - the wine's red fruit core mirrors the sweet-tart glaze while its freshness cuts through the richness of the duck.
- **Venison carpaccio** - the sanguine note of the Syrah harmonises beautifully with lean game meat and peppery accents.
- **Aged hard cheeses (Comté or Pecorino)** - the chalky tannins and mineral finish pair elegantly with nutty, savoury cheese profiles.
- **Grilled aubergine with harissa** - the spice and smoky flavours align seamlessly with the wine's exotic spice and floral lift.



Tim Atkin (TA) : 96 Points (2021)

Fermented with 100% whole clusters, like all of the site-specific Mullineux Syrah, this is the most intense, backward and well-structured of the trio. Serious, compact and concentrated, it's a red that wouldn't look out of place in Cornas, with violet aromas, damson and blackberry fruit, sturdy tannins and the freshness and focus of a cool vintage.



Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2021)

Made from 100% whole-cluster grapes, the 2021 Granite Syrah is dense with a firm, rocky core and fresh layers of spicy red and black fruit tones that erupt from the glass. With immense mineral tension and fine-grained tannins, this will need some time to come around but will indeed finish strong. Your patience will be rewarded; give the wine time.



James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2021)

Tobacco and black berry fruit on the nose with some violets, olives and cracked pepper. Medium- to full-bodied with firm and very precise tannins. Mineral and focused, almost brooding. Try from 2024.

