



# Kanonkop

Kanonkop Cabernet Sauvignon is a bold and structured wine, reflecting the precision and craftsmanship of winemaker Abrie Beeslaar, and designed to age gracefully over the next decade or more.



## Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Stellenbosch, South Africa

### Region and Vineyards

The **Stellenbosch region**, specifically the **Simonsberg** sub-region, is recognized as a premier area for producing high-quality Cabernet Sauvignon. Located in the **Western Cape of South Africa**, the vineyards benefit from the cooling influence of the nearby Atlantic Ocean, which helps to moderate the warm summer temperatures. This allows for slow, even ripening, enhancing the development of complex flavors and firm tannins in the grapes.

The **Kanonkop estate**, situated on the lower slopes of Simonsberg Mountain, enjoys a unique terroir of **decomposed granite soils**, interspersed with **Hutton** and **Clovelly** types. These well-drained soils are ideal for growing dry-farmed Cabernet Sauvignon, forcing the vines to develop deep roots, resulting in concentrated flavors and natural balance. The vines used for this wine average **29 years** in age, which contributes to the wine's complexity and depth.

### Winemaking

This vintage experienced **cooler growing conditions** with regular rainfall, which led to an extended ripening period and reduced water stress in the vineyards. This slow maturation allowed the grapes to develop intense flavors and balanced acidity.

Fermentation was carried out in **open-top concrete fermenters** at **29°C**, with the skins being **punched down by hand every two hours** to ensure full extraction of color, tannins, and flavor. After **five days**, the juice was drawn off the skins and underwent **malolactic fermentation**. The wine was then aged for **24 months** in **225-liter French oak barrels**, with a mix of **50% new** and **50% second-fill** Nevers oak, giving the wine structure and an integrated oak character.

Alcohol :14,40 %

Composition: 100% Cabernet  
Sauvignon



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## Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, rich ruby with a garnet rim, indicating its youthful intensity.
- **Aroma:** Complex aromas of **blackberry**, **cassis**, and **tobacco** are complemented by hints of **cedar**, **spice**, and a subtle touch of fresh **fynbos**.
- **Palate:** The palate is full and mouth-filling, with concentrated flavors of **blackcurrant** and **black cherries**, framed by **oak spice** and a touch of **roasted nuts**. The **tannins** are firm yet finely integrated, providing excellent structure for further aging.

## Did you know?

Kanonkop is often referred to as South Africa's **First Growth**, akin to the Bordeaux classification system. The estate has been producing some of the country's most iconic wines for over a century. The name "Kanonkop" refers to a hill from which a cannon was fired in the 17th century to signal that trading ships were approaching Cape Town.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled Ribeye Steak:** The robust tannins and dark fruit notes of the wine complement the rich, fatty flavors of a perfectly grilled ribeye.
- **Slow-cooked Venison:** The gamey flavors of venison find harmony with the wine's depth of fruit and spice, while the firm tannins balance the dish's richness.
- **Braised Beef Short Ribs:** The supple texture of the wine pairs beautifully with the tender, savory character of braised beef, enhancing the umami and meaty flavors.
- **Matured Hard Cheeses:** The wine's complexity and oak influence make it an ideal partner for aged cheeses like Parmigiano-Reggiano or a well-aged cheddar.

### Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 90 Points (2018)



*Enticing notes of cigar spice, baked plum and cassis form the nose of this wine, with a touch of cedar for added interest. It's medium in weight, with a velvety texture thanks to plush yet structuring tannins and just enough acidity for balance. The medium-length finish offers nice evolution, from jammy black plum and black cherry characteristics to lingering sweet spice.*

### Wine Spectator (WS) : 89 Points (2018)



*Ripe and silky boysenberry and crème de cassis fruit flavors are enmeshed with a savory range of herbed olive, iron and charcoal notes in this well-balanced, medium- to full-bodied red. Plush tannins firm the spicy finish. Drink now through 2025. 100 cases imported.*



## Cabernet Sauvignon 2018



**Tim Atkin (TA) : 94 Points (2014)**

*Pure Cabernets are surprisingly hard to find in Stellenbosch, such is the growing fashion for Bordeaux blends, but this comparatively large volume example is scented, leafy and refined, with tobacco pouch and wild herb aromas and some of the cool elegance of the 2014 vintage. 2020-28. Alcohol: 14.6%*

