



Kanonkop

The Kanonkop Black Label Pinotage represents the pinnacle of South African winemaking, showcasing the full potential of old-vine Pinotage from the esteemed Simonsberg vineyards.



KANONKOP
WINE ESTATE



Black Label Pinotage 2020

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Region and Vineyards

The **Simonsberg** sub-region of **Stellenbosch** is renowned for producing some of South Africa's most distinctive wines, and Kanonkop's Black Label Pinotage is no exception. The vineyards used for this wine are planted on the slopes of the **Simonsberg Mountain**, where the soils consist mainly of **decomposed granite and Hutton**. These soils are well-drained and rich in minerals, enabling the vines to dig deep into the earth, producing concentrated and flavorful grapes.

The vines used for the **Black Label Pinotage** are **67 years old**, some of the oldest Pinotage vines in South Africa. These **dry-farmed vines**, which rely solely on natural rainfall, yield only **2.8 tons per hectare**, contributing to the wine's extraordinary intensity and complexity. The harsh growing conditions result in smaller berries with concentrated flavors, delivering a Pinotage that is both powerful and nuanced.

Winemaking

The **Kanonkop Black Label Pinotage** is made from 100% Pinotage, a variety uniquely South African in origin, created in 1925 as a cross between Pinot Noir and Cinsaut. The grapes were hand-harvested and fermented in **open-top concrete fermenters**, where the floating skins were **punched down by hand every two hours** to ensure optimal extraction of color, flavor, and tannins.

After just **3.5 days**, the juice was drawn off the skins, and the wine underwent **malolactic fermentation**. The wine was then aged for **18 months in 100% new 225L French Nevers oak barrels**, which impart subtle layers of sweet spice and dark chocolate, enhancing the wine's complexity without overshadowing the fruit. With only **1,150 cases** produced, the **Black Label Pinotage** is a rare and coveted wine, known for its bold character and impeccable balance.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinotage



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** A deep, intense purple hue, indicating concentration and richness.
- **Aroma:** A captivating blend of **red and black cherries, dark plums**, and sweet spices, with underlying notes of **dark chocolate, dry earth**, and **cured meats**, all contributing to the wine's layered complexity.
- **Palate:** On the palate, the wine is full-bodied yet elegant, with **velvety tannins** supporting a core of luscious dark fruit. The **oak is seamlessly integrated**, adding structure and depth, while the finish is long and smooth, embodying the perfect balance of power and finesse.

Did you know?

Pinotage, the grape variety used in **Kanonkop Black Label**, is a uniquely South African creation. It was developed in 1925 by Professor Abraham Perold, who crossed **Pinot Noir** with **Cinsaut** (locally known as Hermitage). This hybrid grape was designed to combine the elegance of Pinot Noir with the robustness of Cinsaut, and today it is considered South Africa's signature grape variety. The **Black Label Pinotage** is one of the finest expressions of this indigenous variety, made from **some of the oldest Pinotage vines** in the country.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Barbecued venison:** The gamey flavors of venison pair beautifully with the wine's dark fruit and smoky undertones, while the rich tannins complement the meat's texture.
- **Roast duck with berry sauce:** The sweetness of the berry sauce enhances the fruitiness of the wine, while the wine's structure holds up well against the richness of the duck.
- **Aromatic curries:** The complex spice notes in the wine, along with its bold fruit profile, make it an ideal match for flavorful curries.
- **Pork belly:** The wine's velvety tannins and dark fruit flavors provide a perfect counterbalance to the rich, succulent texture of pork belly.

Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2019)



The 2019 Black Label Pinotage is more generous than most, with a fresh and juicy aroma with a hint of reduction. Made with 100% new French oak, the full-bodied Pinotage has lush oak flavors with a tight, gripping, tannic edge. You'll notice notes of juicy plum reduction, blackberry puree, potpourri and red peppercorn flavors as you drink it. The wine finishes gracefully and lingers on the palate with a firm tannic edge and a mineral-laced conclusion. The wine aged for a year and a half in new French oak. Only 6,000 bottles were produced.

